

MARK MILLAR DAVE GIBBONS

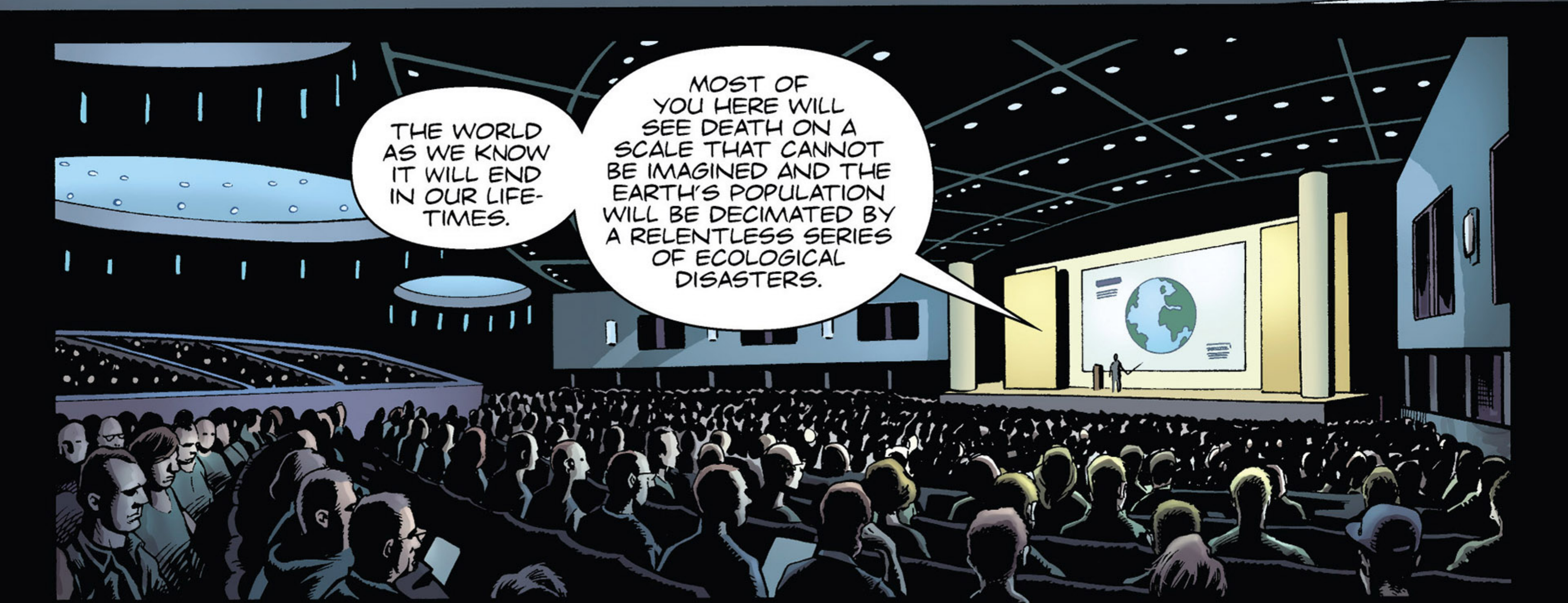
the **SECRET
SERVICE**





LOS ANGELES:

HOW DO I WORD THIS WITHOUT CAUSING UNDUE ALARM?

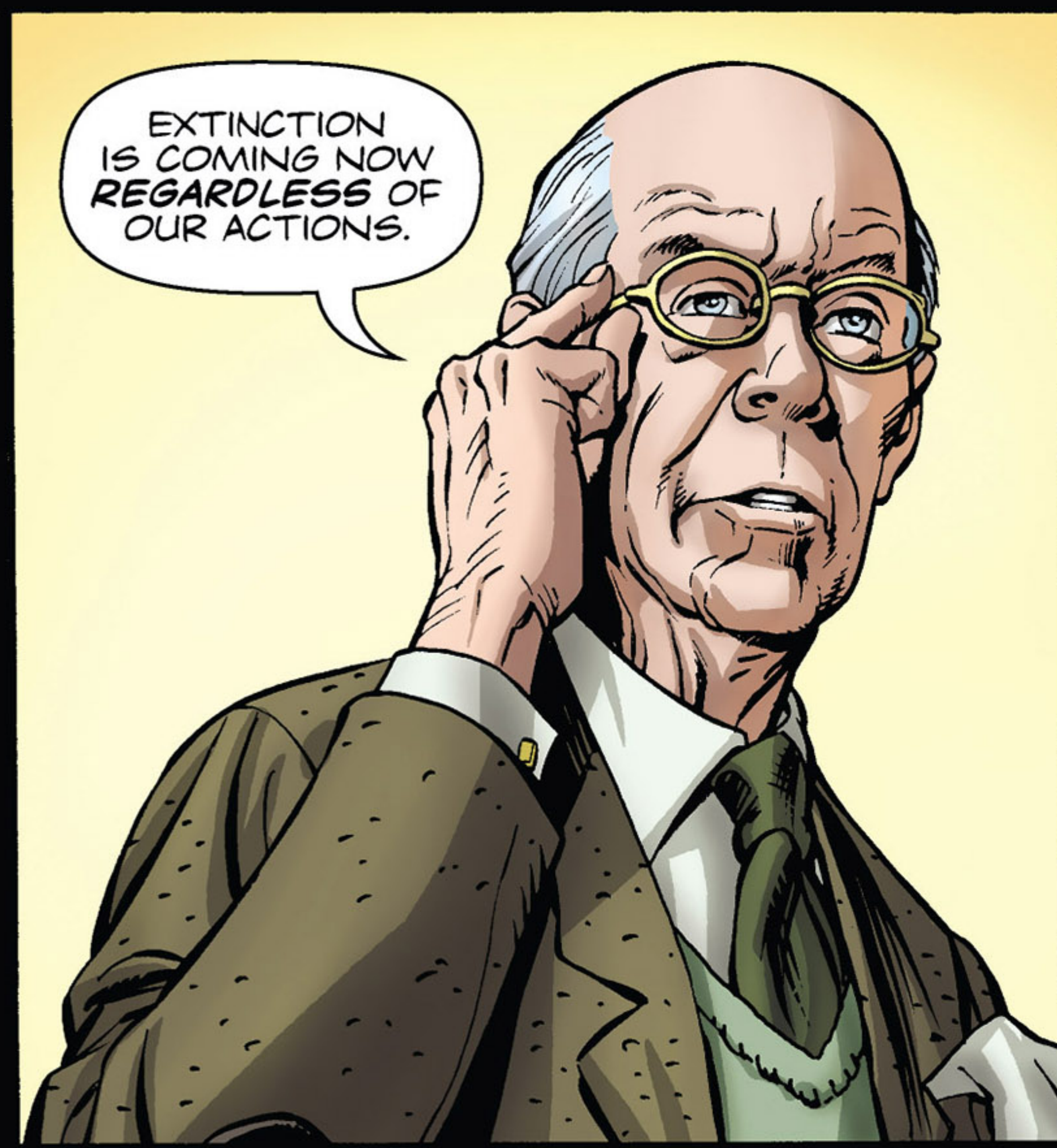


THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT WILL END IN OUR LIFETIMES.

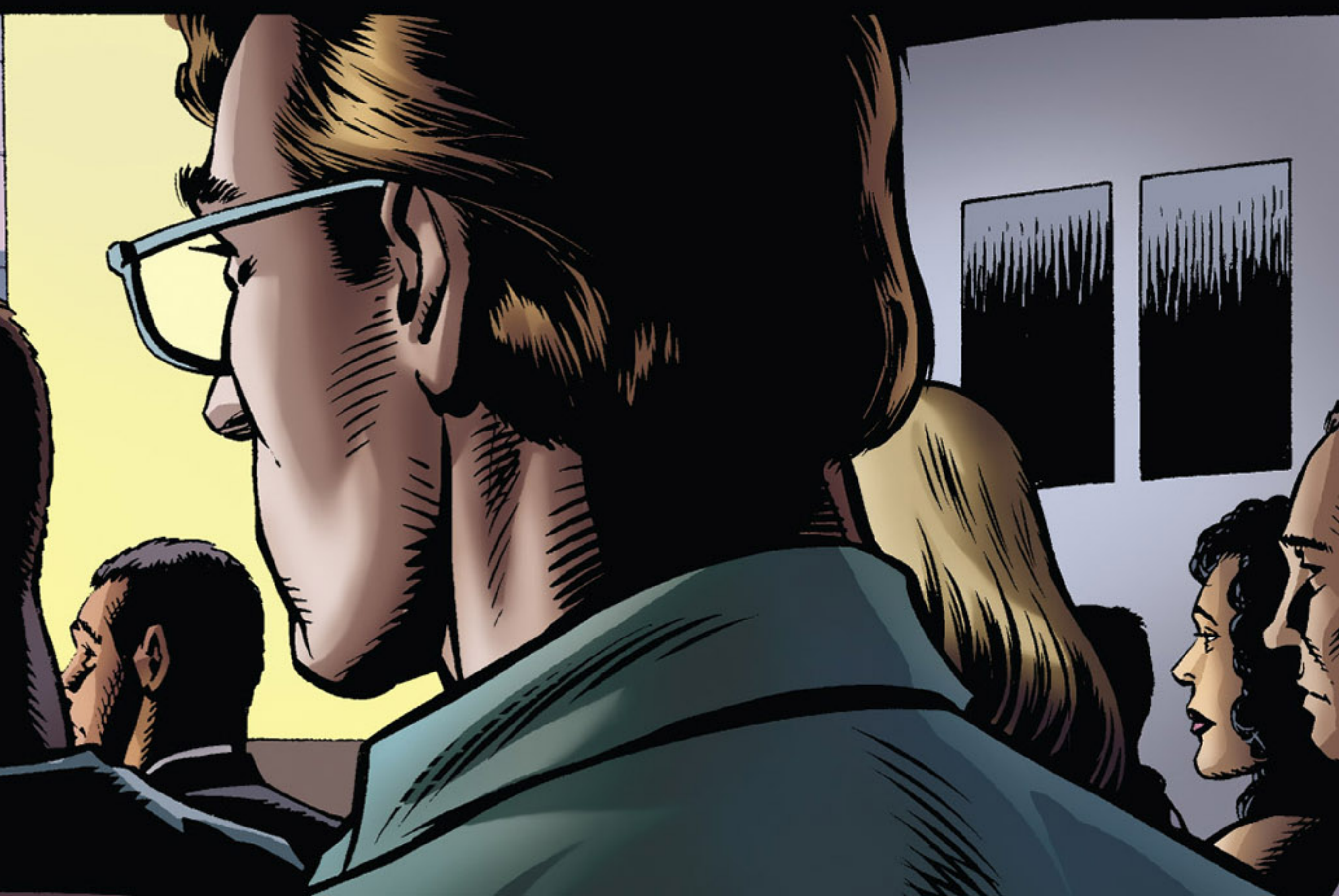
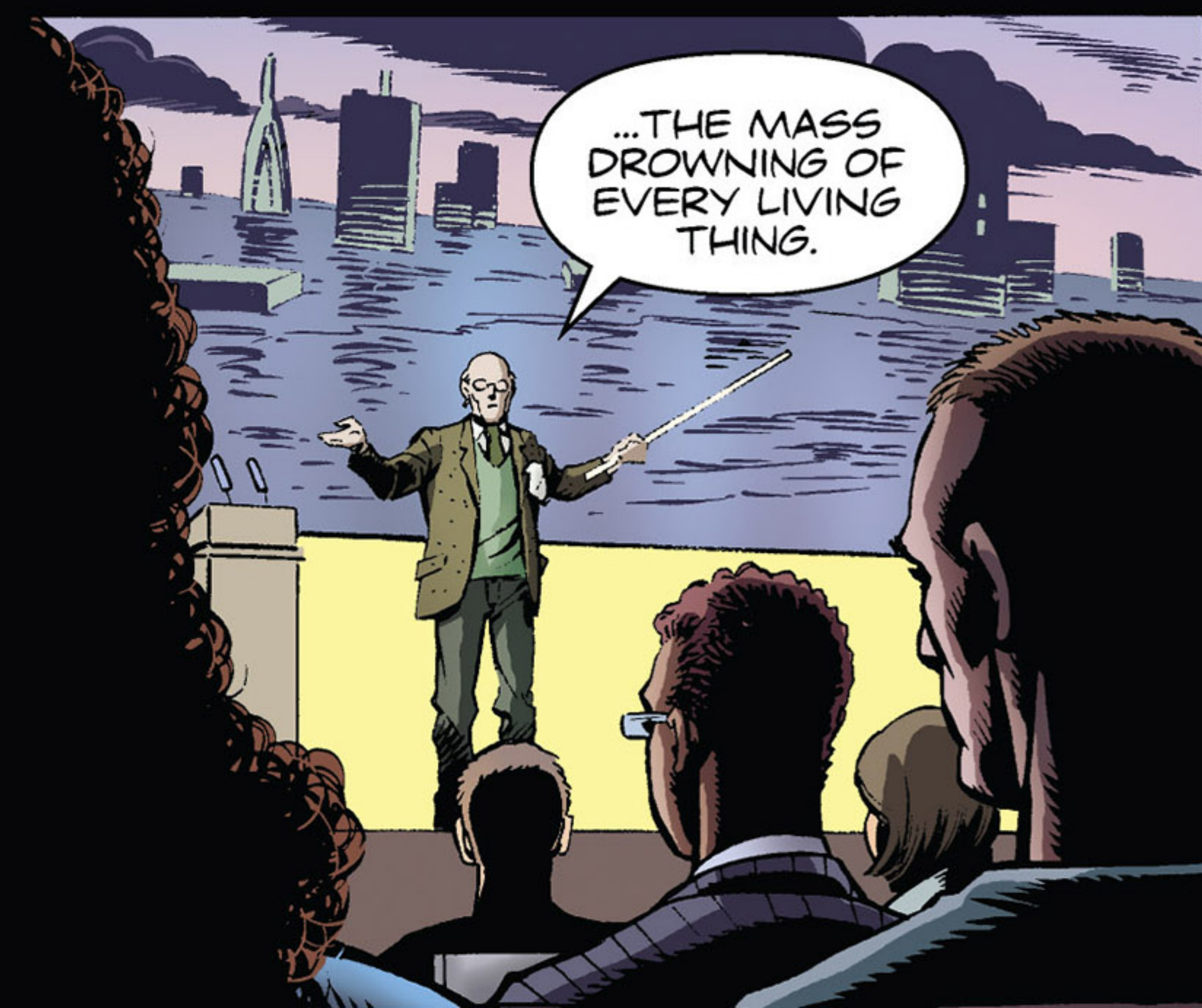
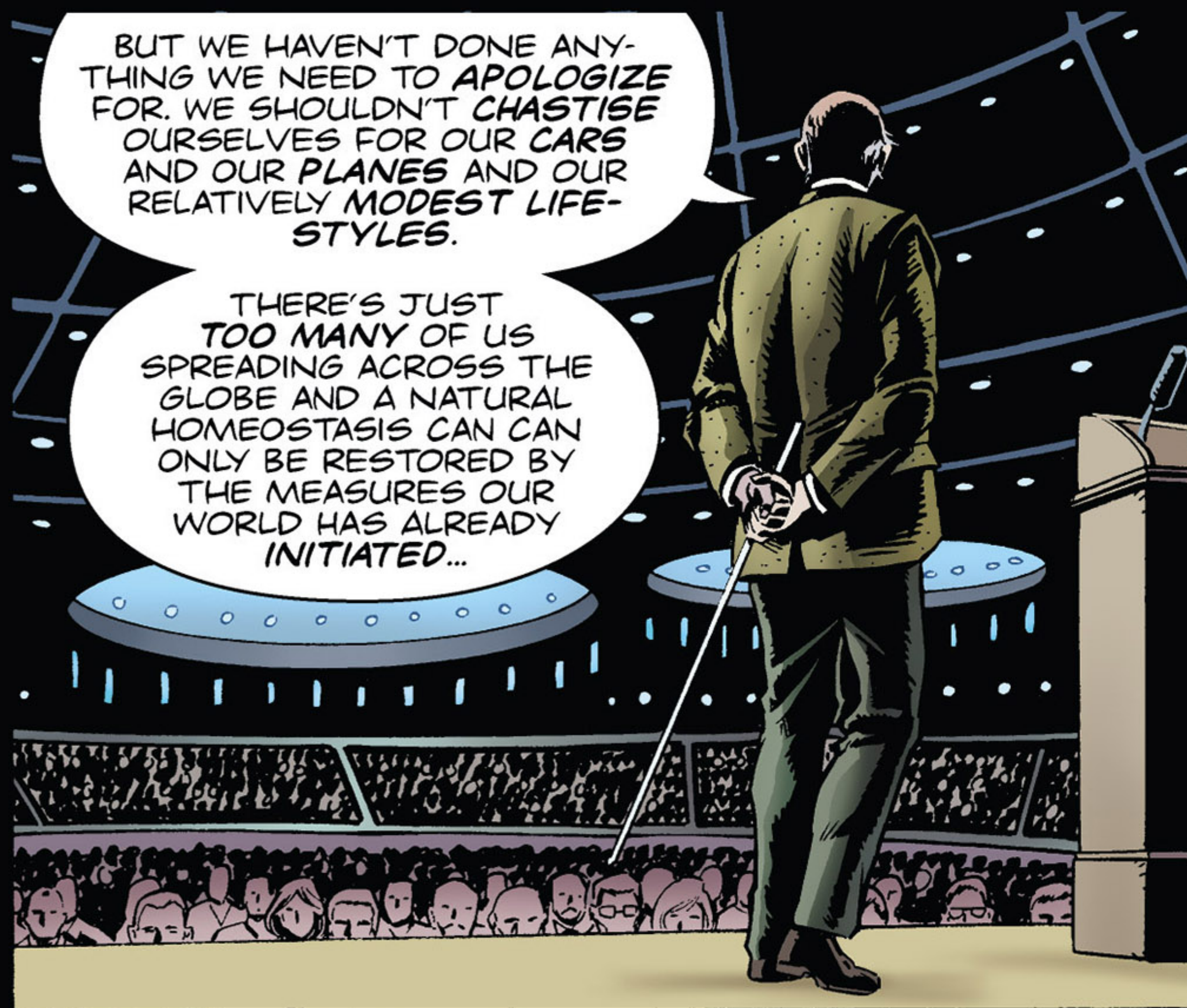
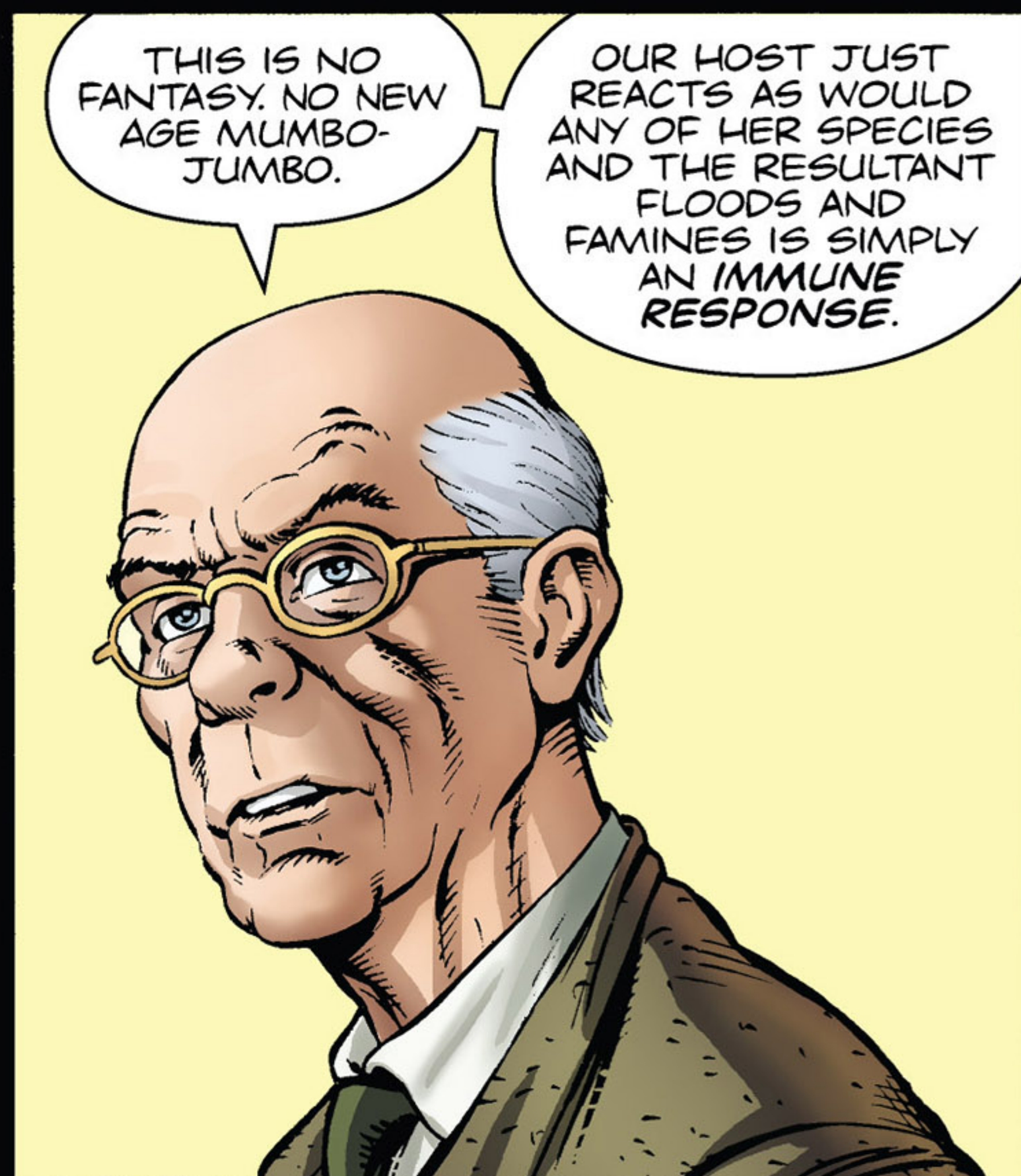
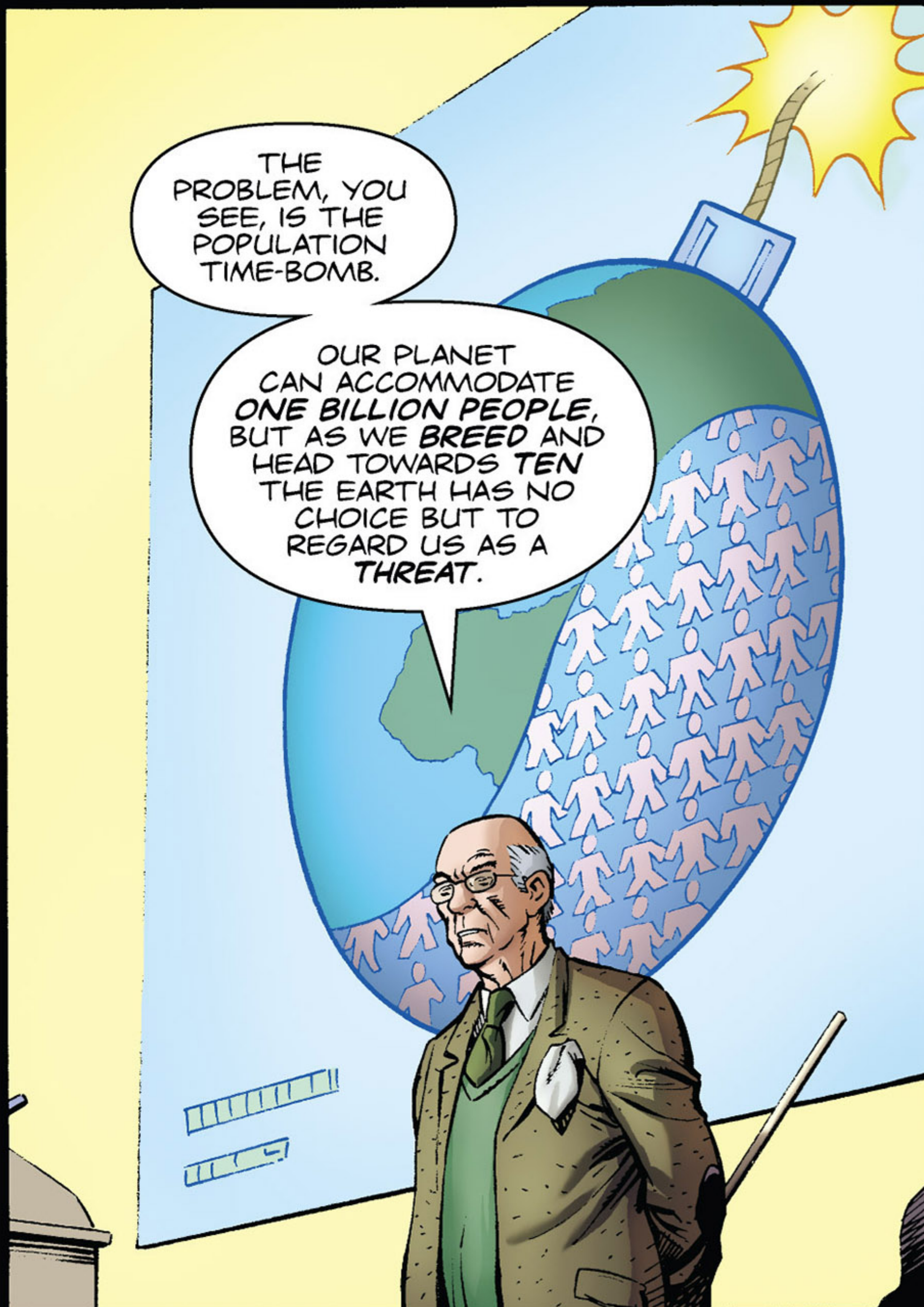
MOST OF YOU HERE WILL SEE DEATH ON A SCALE THAT CANNOT BE IMAGINED AND THE EARTH'S POPULATION WILL BE DECIMATED BY A RELENTLESS SERIES OF ECOLOGICAL DISASTERS.



BUT I'M AFRAID I DON'T SUBSCRIBE TO THE FASHIONABLE NOTION THAT WE CAN **REVERSE** THIS TRAGIC COURSE. WE'RE NOT GOING TO FIX THIS WITH WINDMILLS OR AEROSOL BANS.



EXTINCTION IS COMING NOW **REGARDLESS** OF OUR ACTIONS.





BEIJING:

WHO ARE YOU?
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING HERE?



ESCAPING.



WE'VE
BEEN FLOODED
BEFORE, OF
COURSE, THOUGH
THE PROBLEM
BACK THEN WAS
PHOTOSYNTHETIC
ALGAE.

THE AIR
WAS CHOKED
WITH POISONOUS
OXYGEN AND THE
EARTH WAS PUSHED
INTO A PLANETARY
COMA TO RESOLVE
THIS IMBALANCE
WITH AN ICE-AGE
AND A FRESH
START.

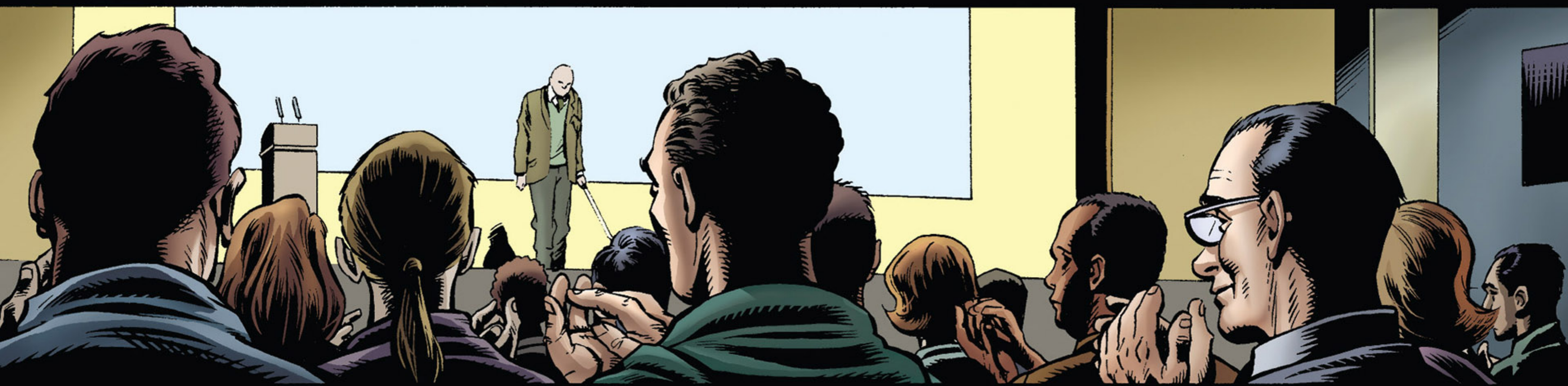
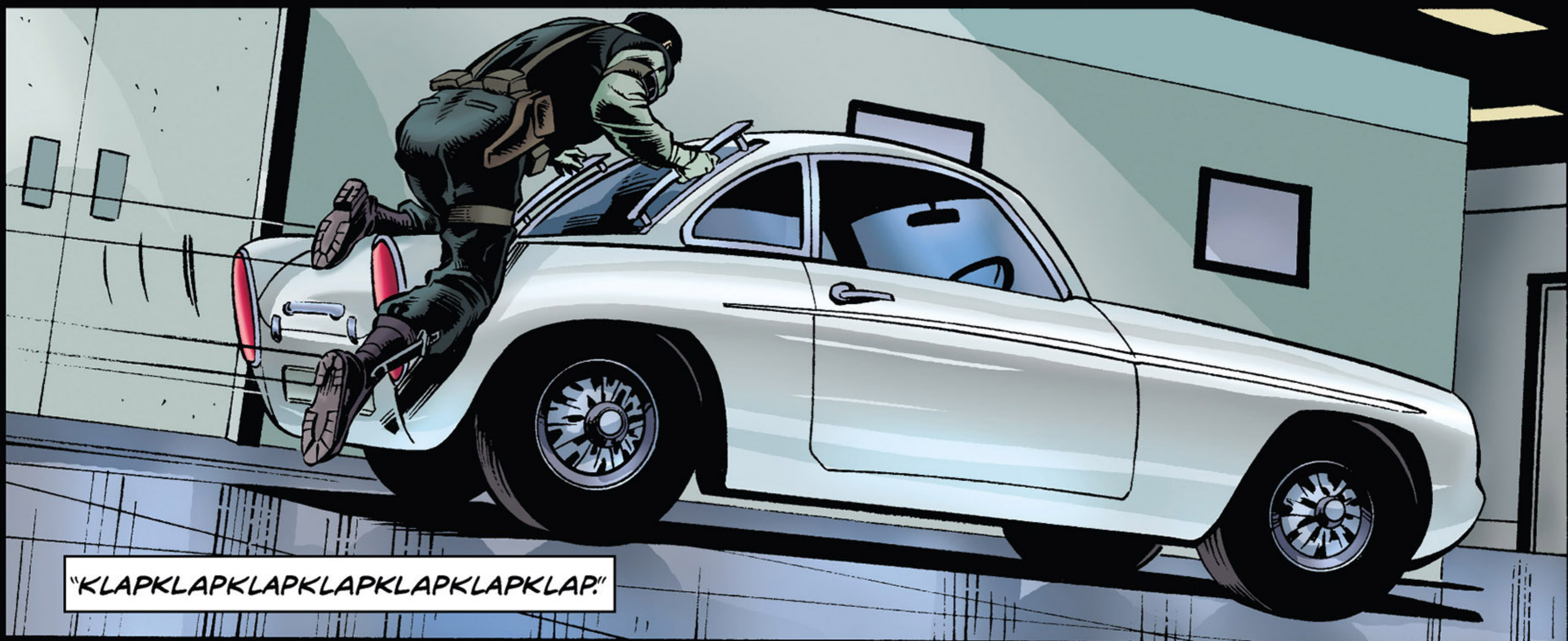


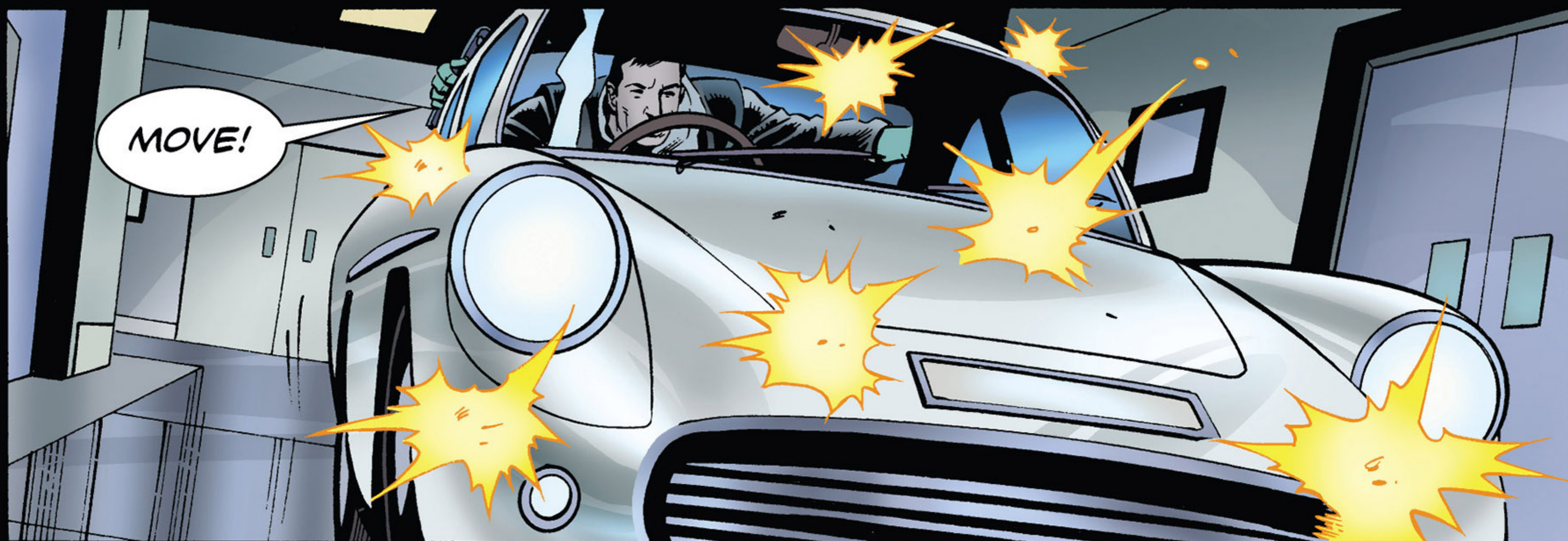
BUT IT'S
ALL JUST PART OF
A NATURAL CYCLE
AND WE AREN'T
GOING TO HALT
THIS WITH ECO-
FRIENDLY LIGHT-
BULBS.

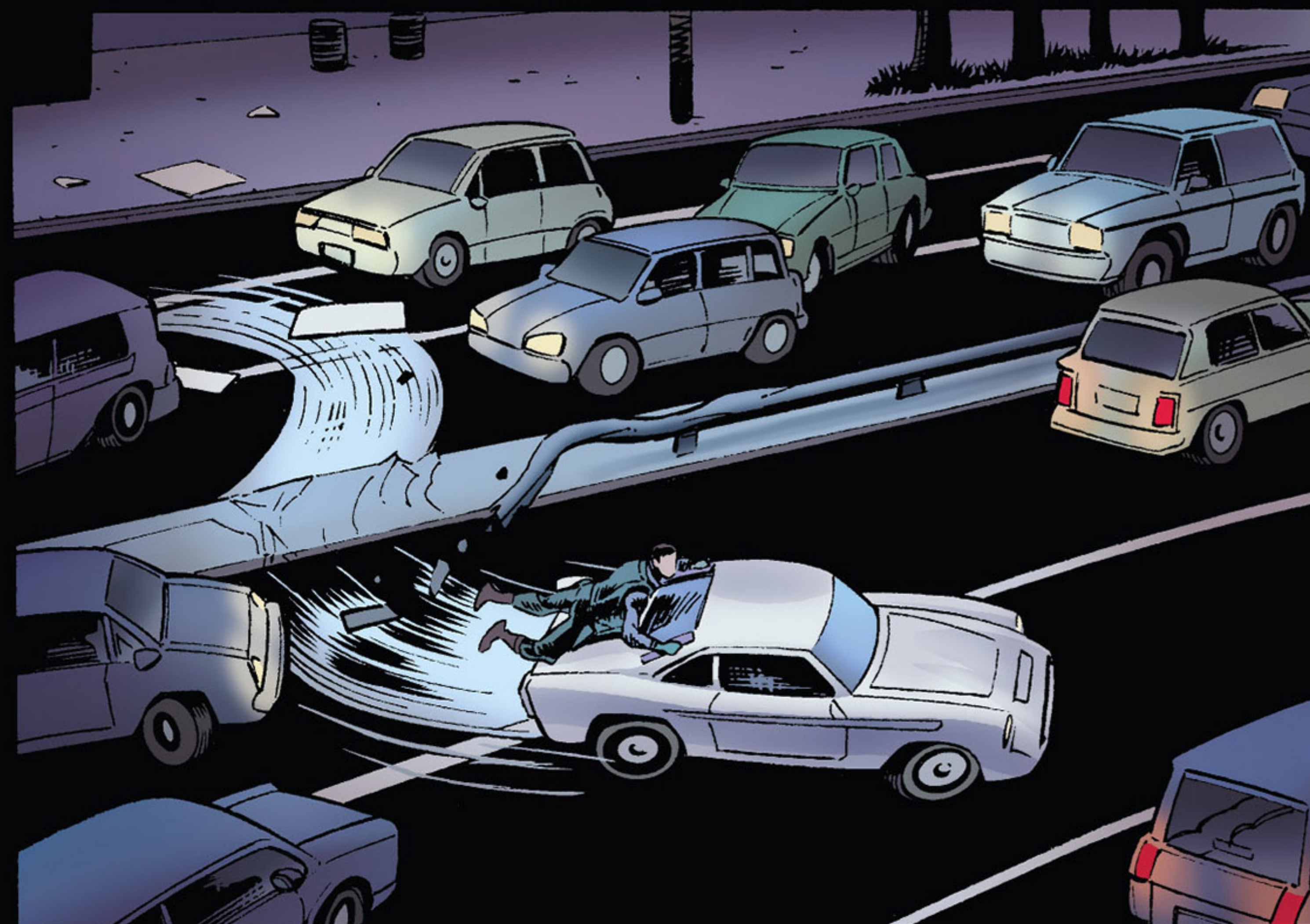
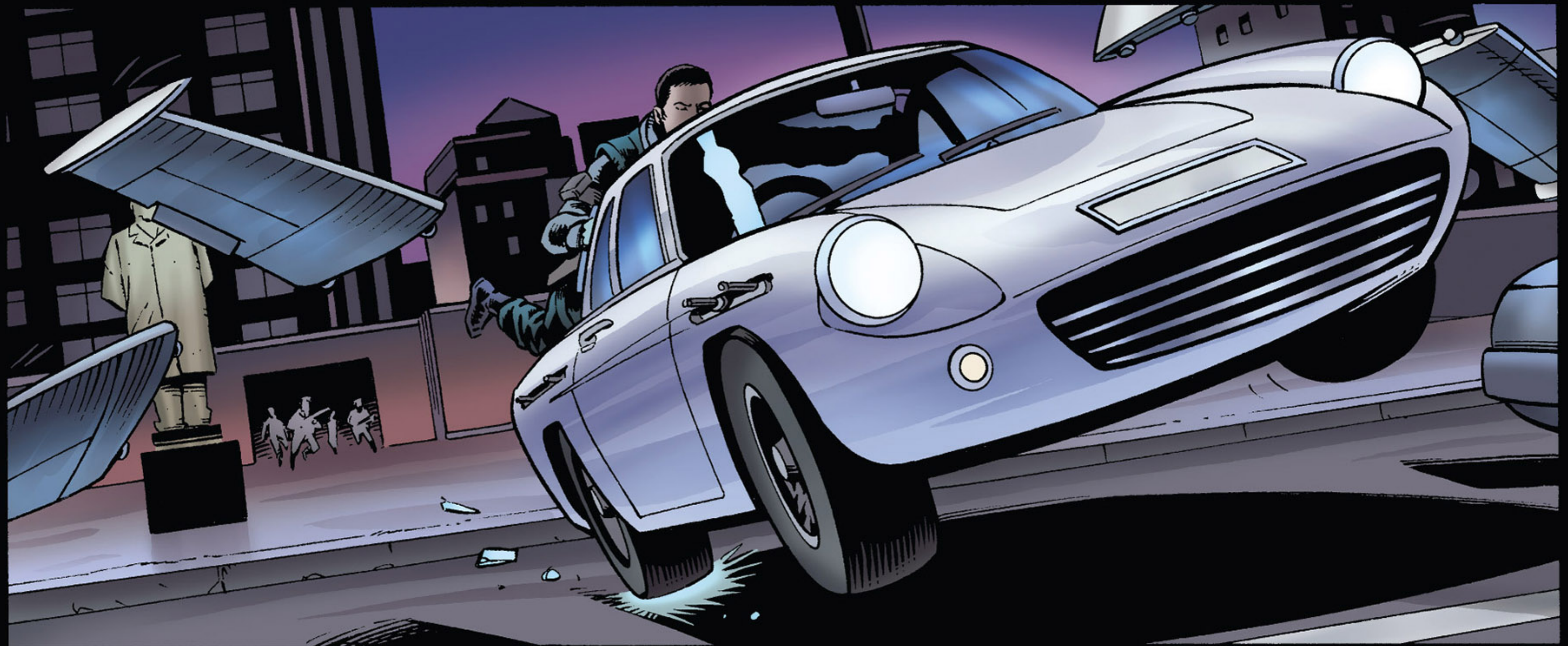
WE MUST
TIGHTEN OUR BORDERS
AND SHORE UP OUR
MOST VULNERABLE
CITIES. THE WORLD IS
LOCKED ON AN IRRE-
VERSIBLE COURSE AND
OUR ONLY REAL HOPE
IS TO ADAPT TO THIS
NEW ENVIRONMENT.











ONLY THAT THE CHINESE ARE AS CLUELESS AS **WE** ARE, RUPERT. THEY'VE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE KIDNAPPINGS AT ALL AND, IRONICALLY, MIGHT EVEN BE VICTIMS **THEMSELVES**.

WHAT ABOUT THIS **LATEST** CHAP TO BE TAKEN DOWN? THE SCIENTIST IN CALIFORNIA?

HAVERSTOCK? FASCINATING MAN.

EDUCATED AT ONE OF ENGLAND'S DREARY, NORTHERN RED BRICKS, BUT HIS EXAM RESULTS WERE SO SPECTACULAR THAT HIS TUTOR'S INSISTED HE HAD TO BE CHEATING.

HE WORKED AT **NASA** IN THE NINETEEN SIXTIES WHERE HE DEVELOPED HIS FAMOUS **GAIA** THEORY...

...THIS NOTION THAT THE EARTH IS A LIVING, SELF-REGULATING ORGANISM AND GLOBAL WARMING NOTHING MORE THAN A NATURAL PHENOMENON.

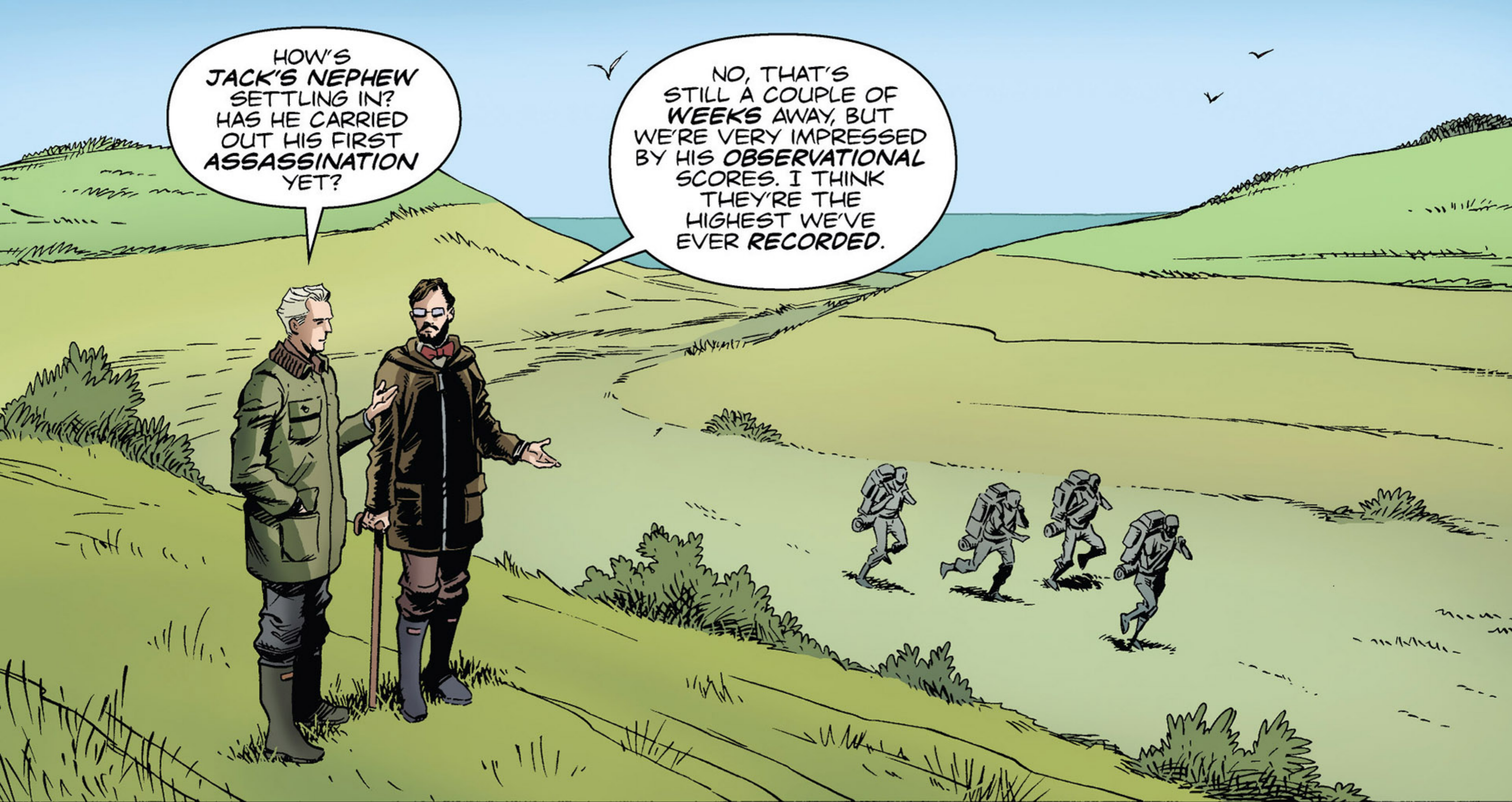
ABSOLVING MAN OF ALL OUR SINS HAS THE GREENS UP IN ARMS, BUT HE'S STARTING TO GET TAKEN VERY SERIOUSLY.

BASICALLY, HE WANTS A **COMPLETE REVERSE** OF OUR CURRENT THINKING AND A GLOBAL STRATEGY TO SIMPLY **COPE** WITH OUR NEW ENVIRONMENT.

WRITERS, MOVIE STARS, TECHNOLOGISTS AND NOW THIS: WHAT THE HELL **LINKS** ALL THESE PEOPLE, SIR GILES?

ONE VERY RICH **CRANK**, I SUSPECT.

I'LL NEVER **FORGIVE** TONY BLAIR FOR MAKING THIS COUNTRY A MAGNET FOR ALL THOSE **RUSSIAN OLIGARCHS** AND SEEDY OIL-BARONS.



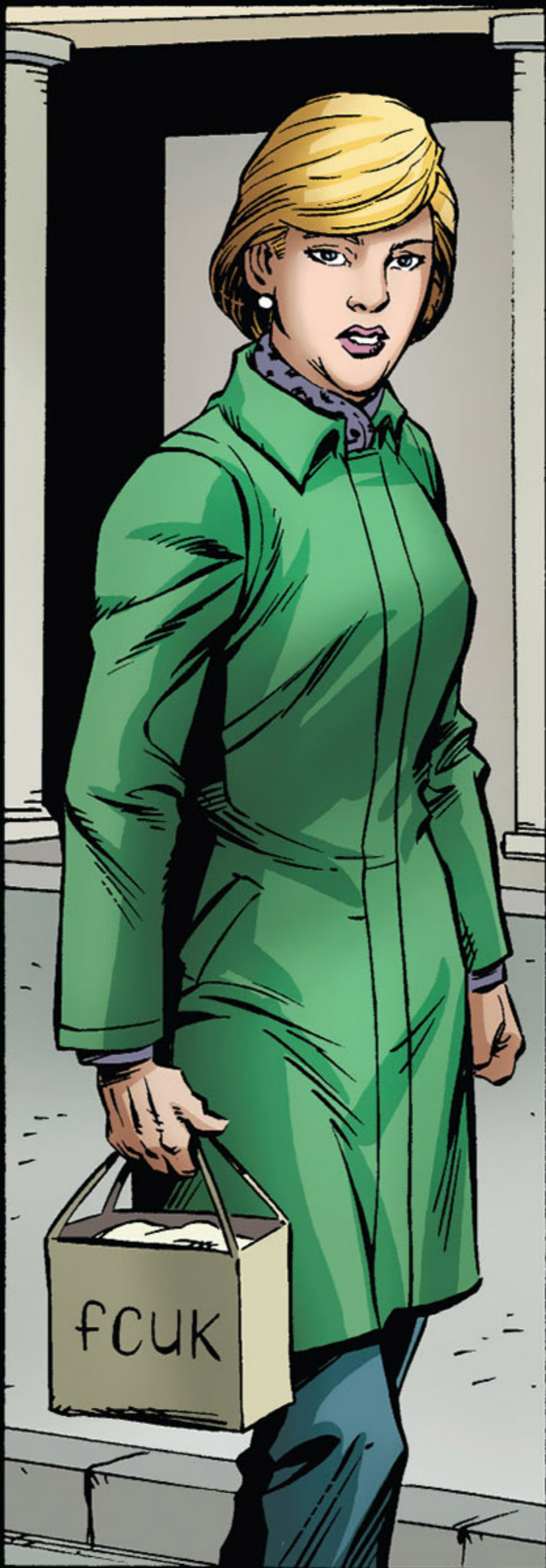
HOW'S JACK'S NEPHEW
SETTLING IN?
HAS HE CARRIED
OUT HIS FIRST
ASSASSINATION
YET?

NO, THAT'S
STILL A COUPLE OF
WEEKS AWAY, BUT
WE'RE VERY IMPRESSED
BY HIS OBSERVATIONAL
SCORES. I THINK
THEY'RE THE
HIGHEST WE'VE
EVER RECORDED.



OBSERVATION
TEST:

AN MIS
OFFICER WALKED PAST
YOU AT EIGHT-FIFTY-
NINE AM AND TOLD YOU
TO GET A JOB. WHAT
COLOUR WAS HER COAT
AND WHAT WAS THE
NAME ON THE BAG SHE
WAS CARRYING?



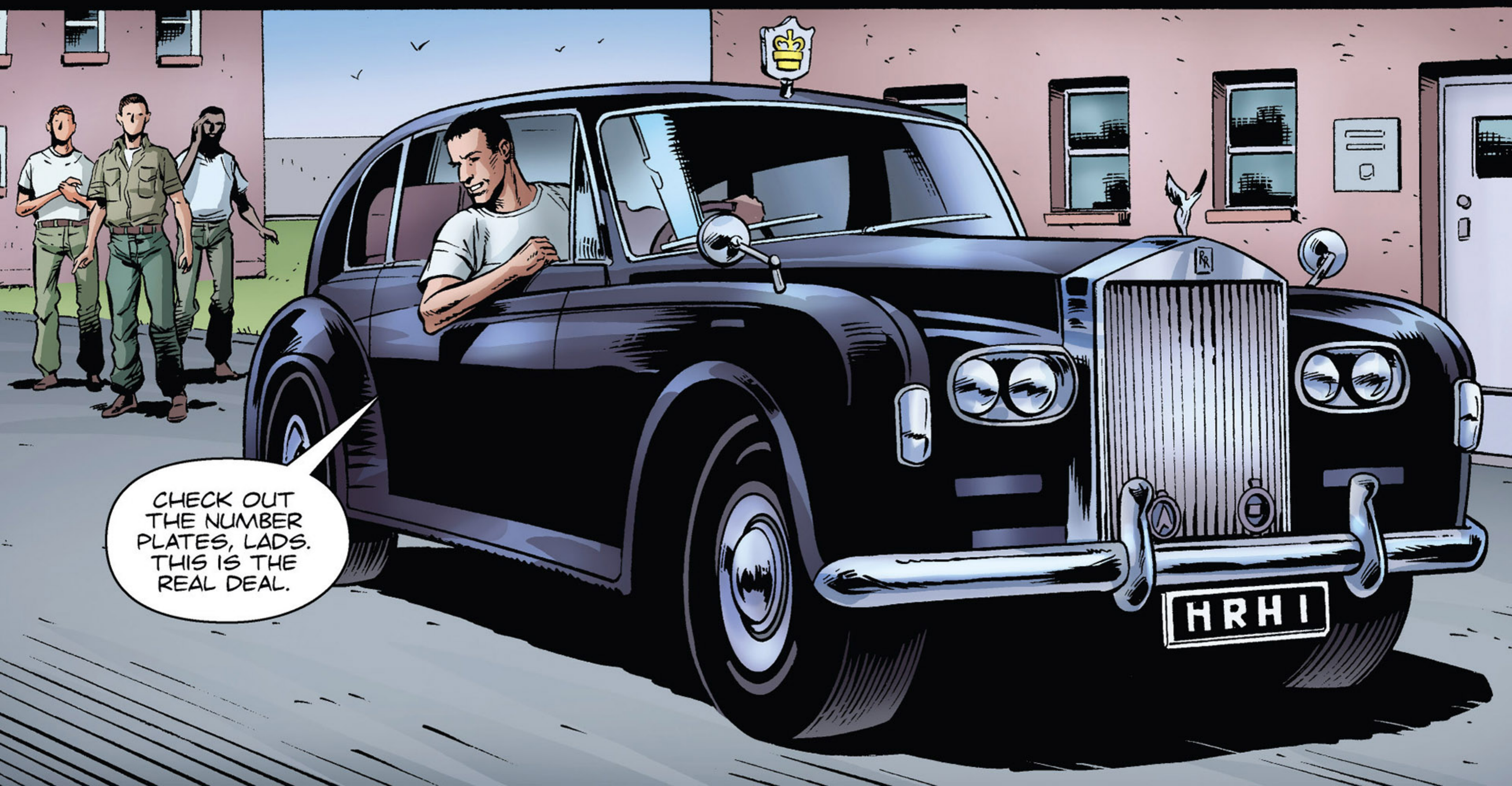
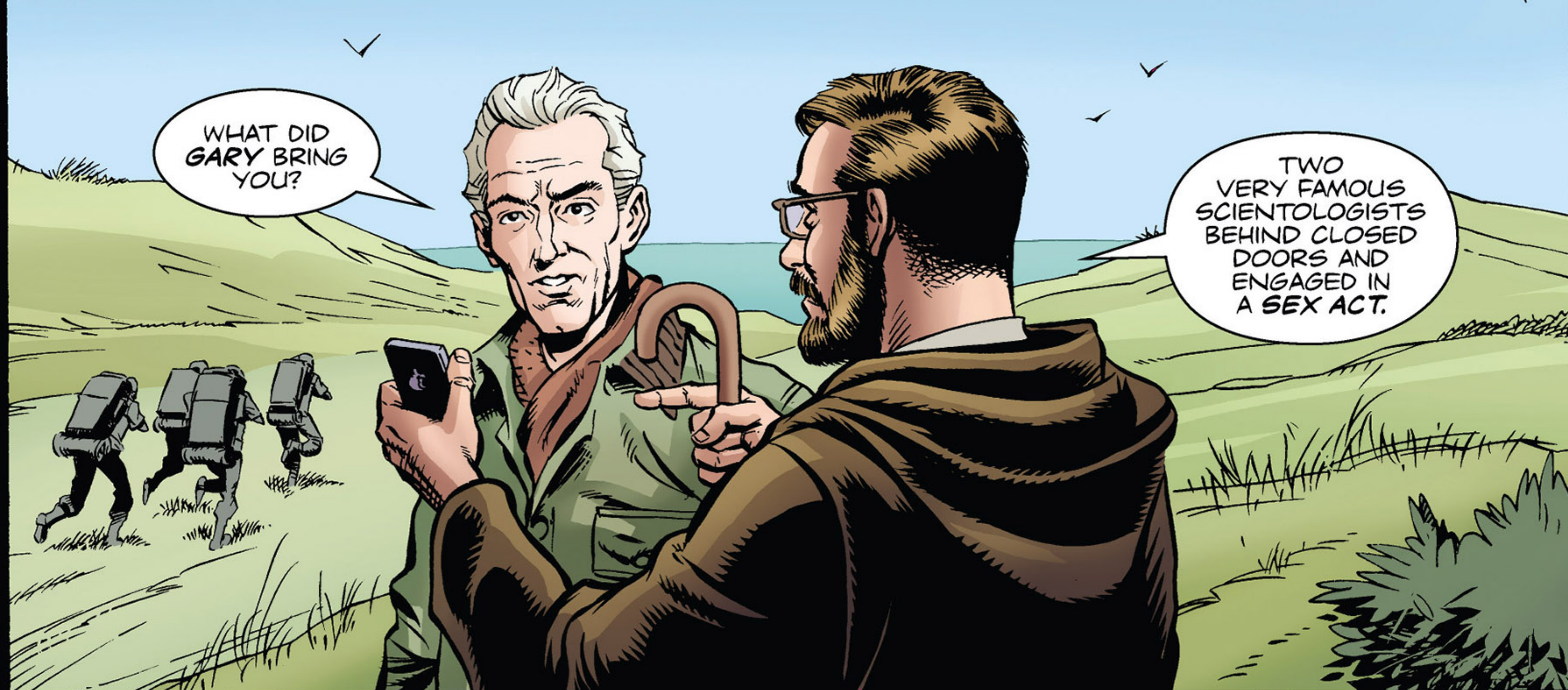
THE COAT WAS
GREEN AND
THE BAG WAS
FROM FRENCH
CONNECTION.

CORRECT.



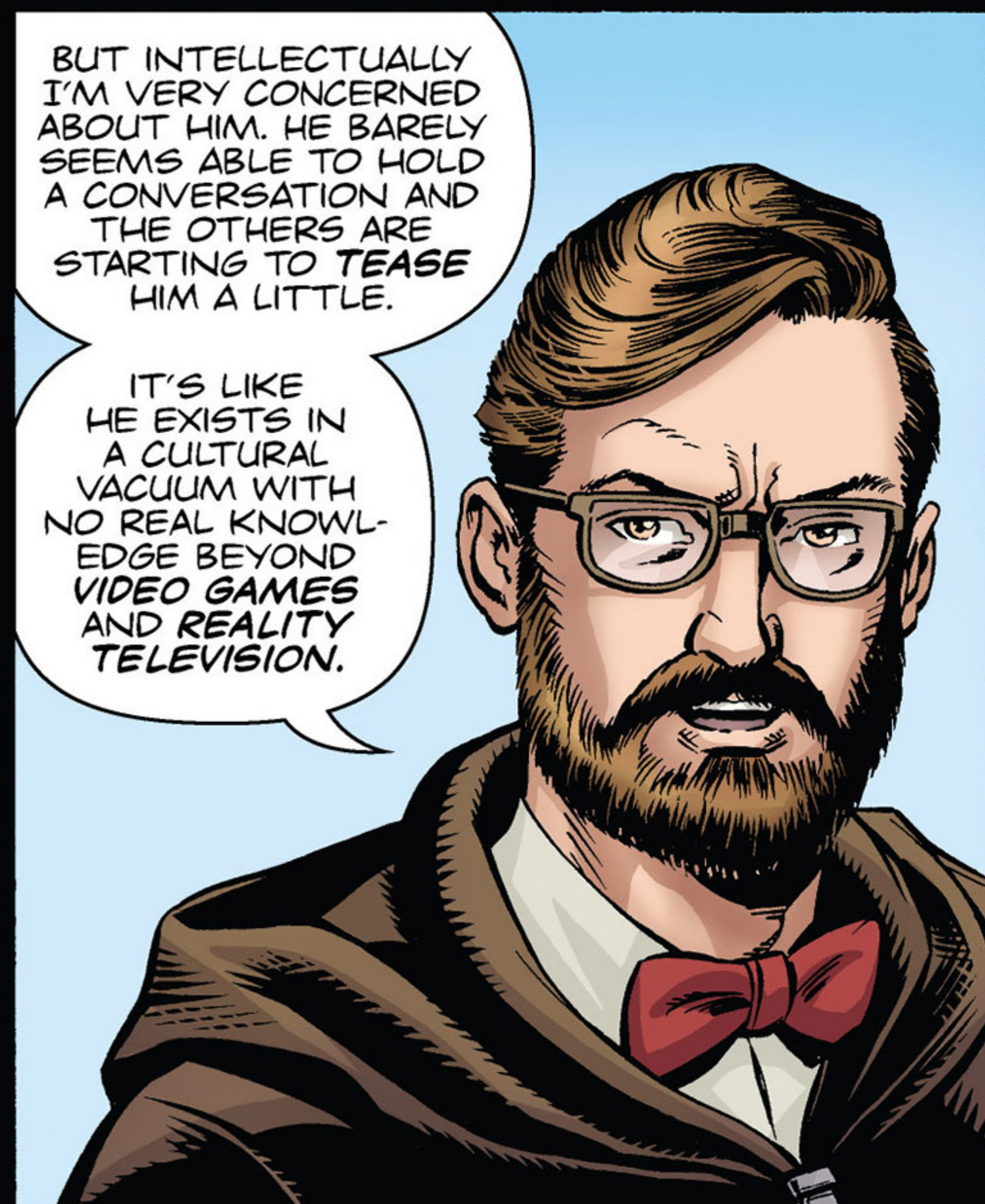
HOW ARE THE
OTHERS HANDLING
THE COMPETITION?
THERE'S THREE OR
FOUR I'D HAND-
PICKED OUT AS
RISING STARS AT
THE SCHOOL.

WELL,
I'M AFRAID THEY
NEED TO UP THEIR
GAME. HE DID EVEN
BETTER IN THE
SURVEILLANCE EXAM
AND THE REST OF
THEM JUST CAME
BACK WITH ALL THE
USUAL PAPARAZZI
RUBBISH.





GARY'S STREET-SKILLS HAVE DEFINITELY GIVEN HIM AN **ADVANTAGE**. THE ETON BOXING CLUB HARDLY COMPARES TO FIGHTING THE LOCAL **POLICE** EVERY NIGHT.

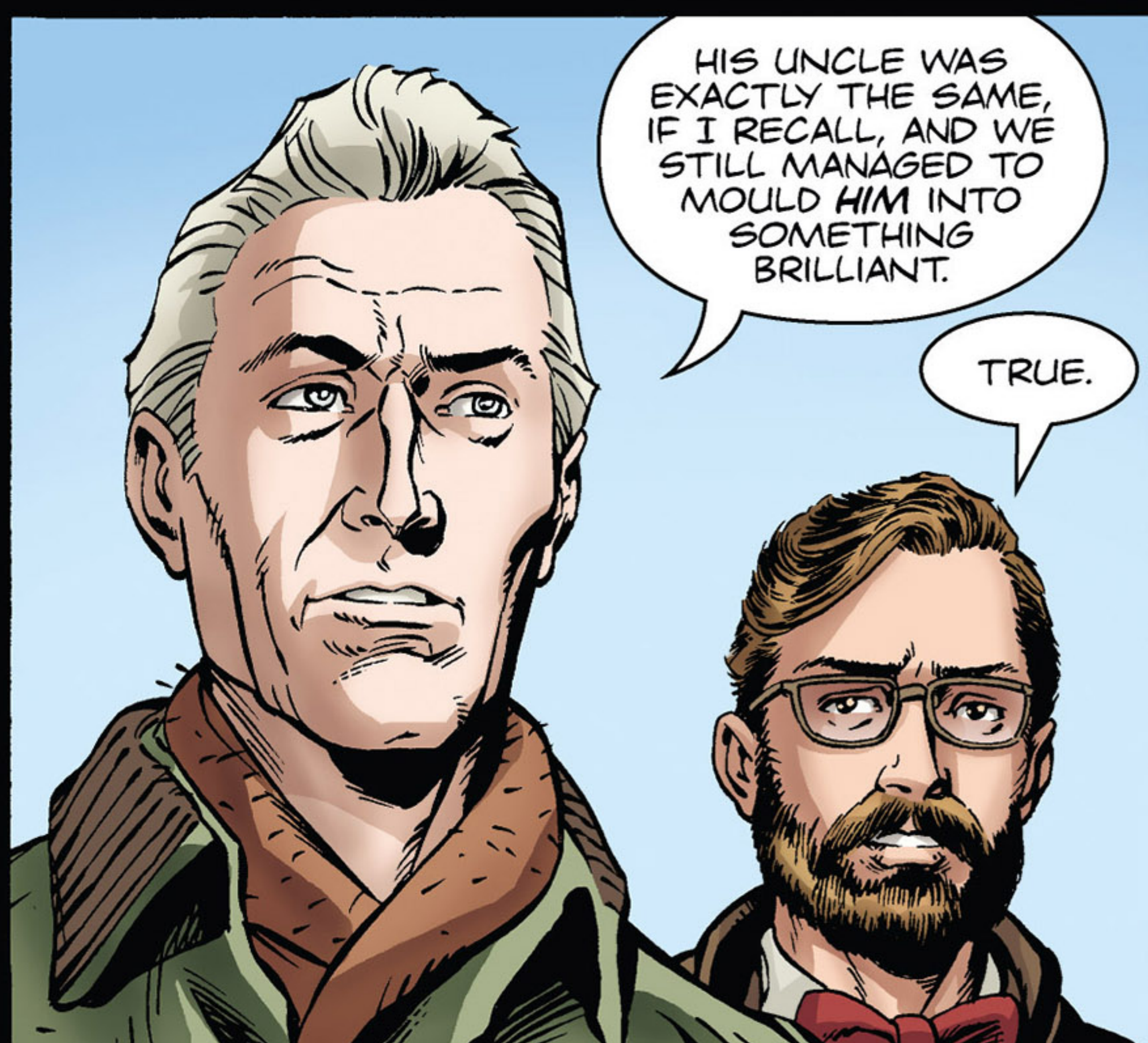


BUT INTELLECTUALLY I'M VERY CONCERNED ABOUT HIM. HE BARELY SEEMS ABLE TO HOLD A CONVERSATION AND THE OTHERS ARE STARTING TO **TEASE** HIM A LITTLE.

IT'S LIKE HE EXISTS IN A CULTURAL VACUUM WITH NO REAL KNOWLEDGE BEYOND **VIDEO GAMES** AND **REALITY TELEVISION**.



COME ON, LONDON. GET A MOVE ON. LAU-DATE DOMINUM BY FERREUS OPUS!



HIS UNCLE WAS EXACTLY THE SAME, IF I RECALL, AND WE STILL MANAGED TO MOULD HIM INTO SOMETHING BRILLIANT.

TRUE.



LET'S SEE HOW HIS FIRST **ASSASSINATION** GOES. MURDERING A TOTAL STRANGER ALWAYS SHOWS US WHAT THEY'RE MADE OF.

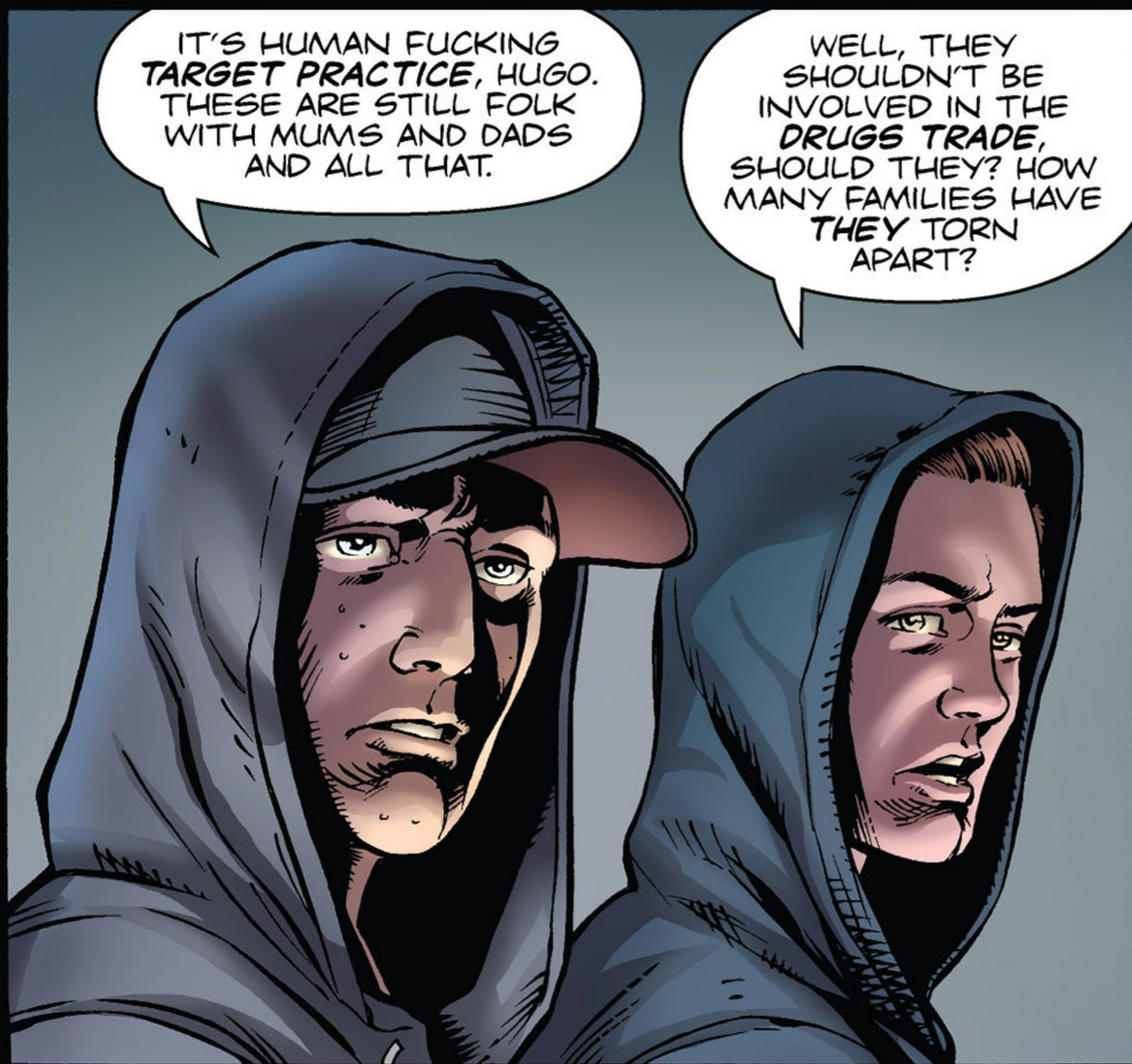
"AREN'T YOU A BIT **FREAKED OUT** BY ALL THIS, STUFF?"



NOT ESPECIALLY. THIS IS WHAT WE'VE BEEN TRAINED TO DO, GARY. TWO IN THE CHEST AND ONE IN THE OFF-SWITCH.

BESIDES, IT ISN'T JUST A LEARNING EXPERIENCE. TAKING DOWN A GANG OF DRUG-DEALERS CAN ONLY BE A POSITIVE THING FOR ALL THE POOR WRETCHES WHO LIVE AROUND HERE.

IT'S JUST CREEPY THE WAY THEY SET THIS UP, MAN. GETTING US TO SHOOT SOME GUYS AND FAKING IT UP LIKE A GANG THING.



IT'S HUMAN FUCKING TARGET PRACTICE, HUGO. THESE ARE STILL FOLK WITH MUMS AND DADS AND ALL THAT.

WELL, THEY SHOULDN'T BE INVOLVED IN THE DRUGS TRADE, SHOULD THEY? HOW MANY FAMILIES HAVE THEY TORN APART?

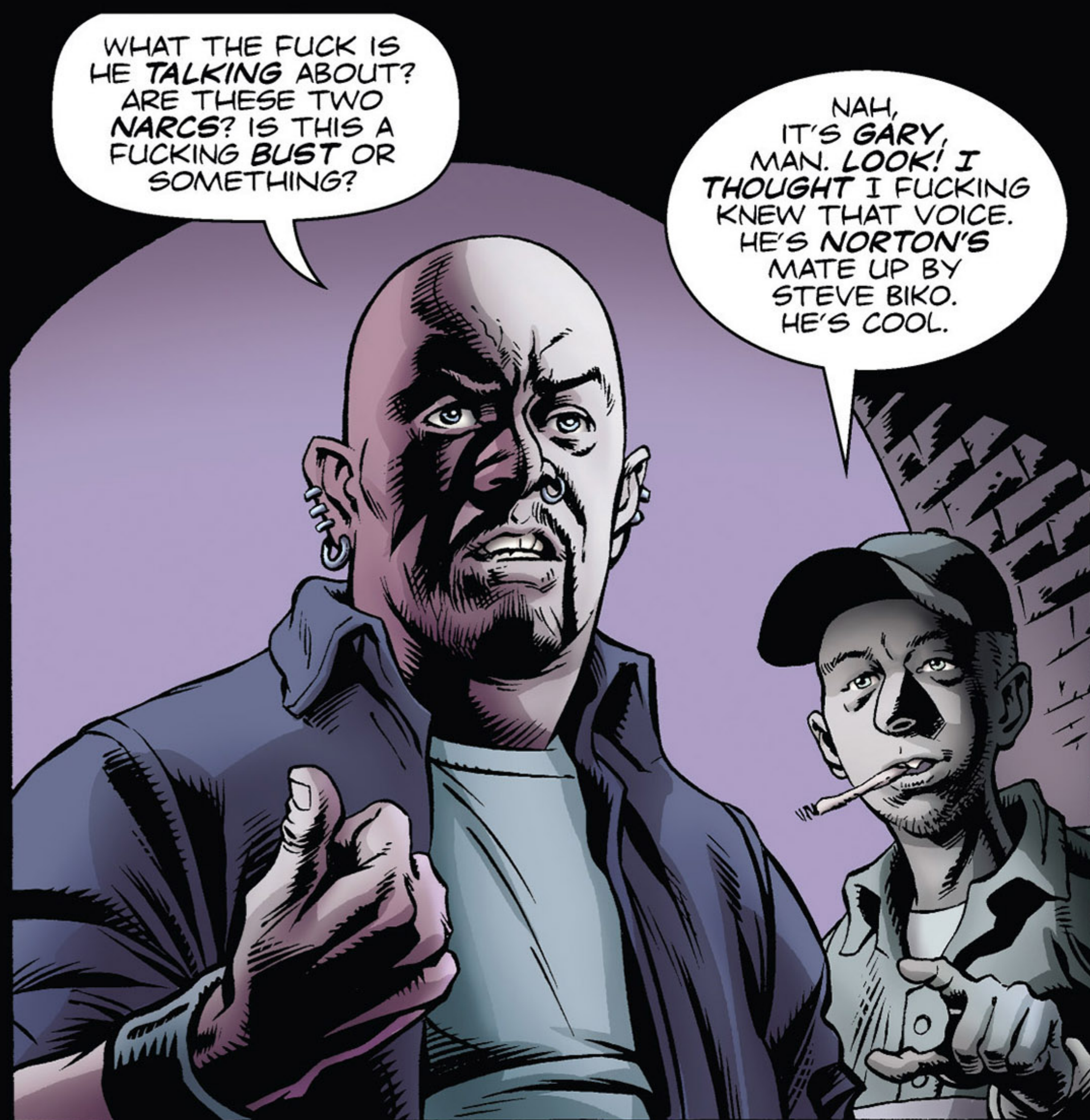


IN AND OUT, BOYS. QUICK AS YOU CAN. WE'VE TOLD THE POLICE TO STAY AWAY SO THEY WON'T BE ANSWERING ANY EMERGENCY CALLS. EVERYBODY KNOWS THIS IS PART OF YOUR TRAINING.

ROGER THAT.



WHAT THE FUCK DO YOU ARSEHOLES WANT? THIS IS A PRIVATE CONVERSATION!







JESUS CHRIST.
HE'S **PRETTY**
GOOD, ISN'T
HE?



SHIT!

G-GET
ME AN
AMBULANCE!
HE SHOT ME IN
THE **BLOODY**
ARM!

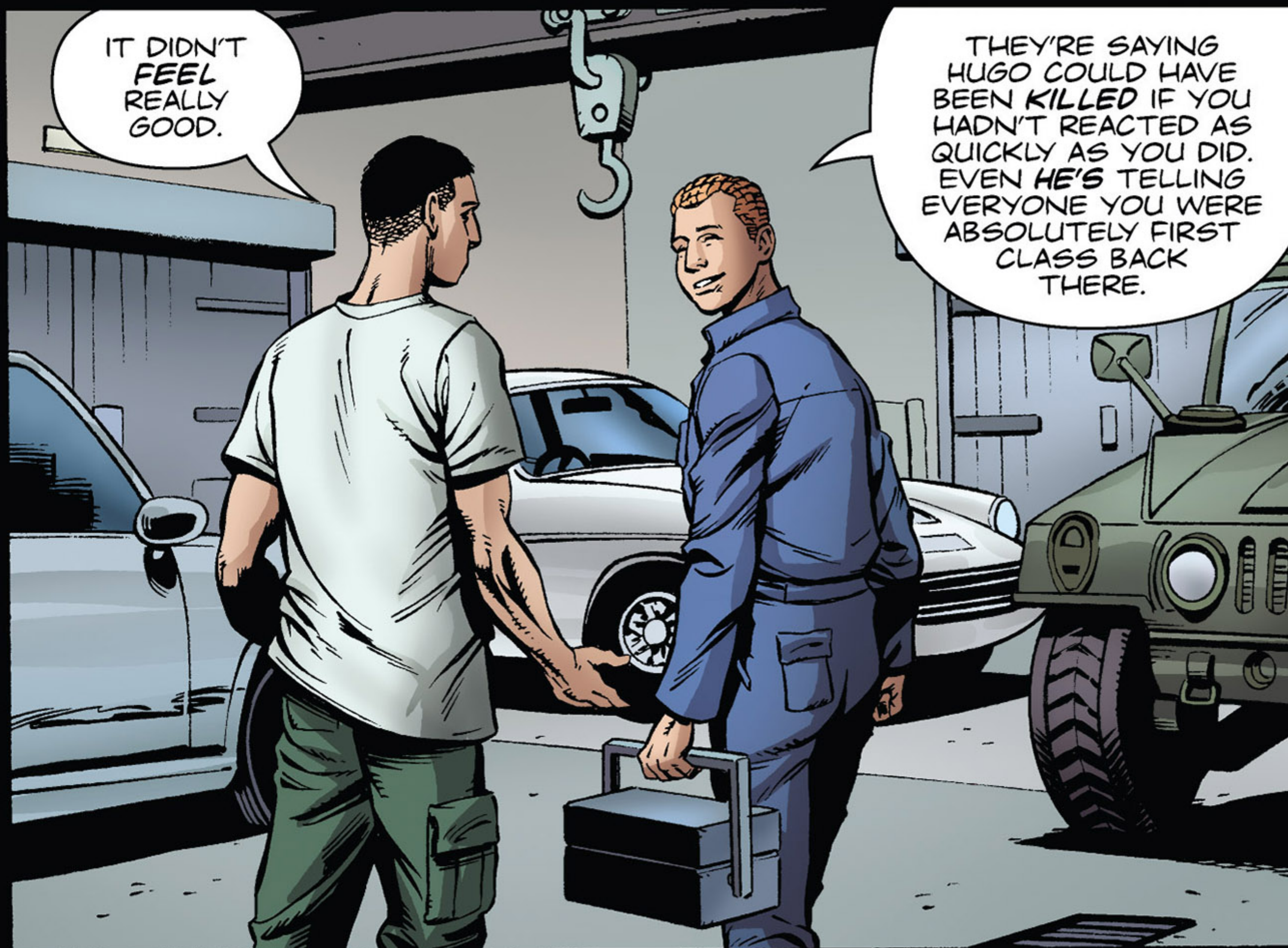


WE
CAN'T...



...THEY'RE NOT
ANSWERING
EMERGENCY
CALLS.

"I HEARD YOU
DID REALLY GOOD
LAST NIGHT."



IT DIDN'T
FEEL
REALLY
GOOD.

THEY'RE SAYING
HUGO COULD HAVE
BEEN **KILLED** IF YOU
HADN'T REACTED AS
QUICKLY AS YOU DID.
EVEN **HE'S** TELLING
EVERYONE YOU WERE
ABSOLUTELY FIRST
CLASS BACK
THERE.



WELL,
WHOO-DE-
FUCKING-
DOO, NICK.



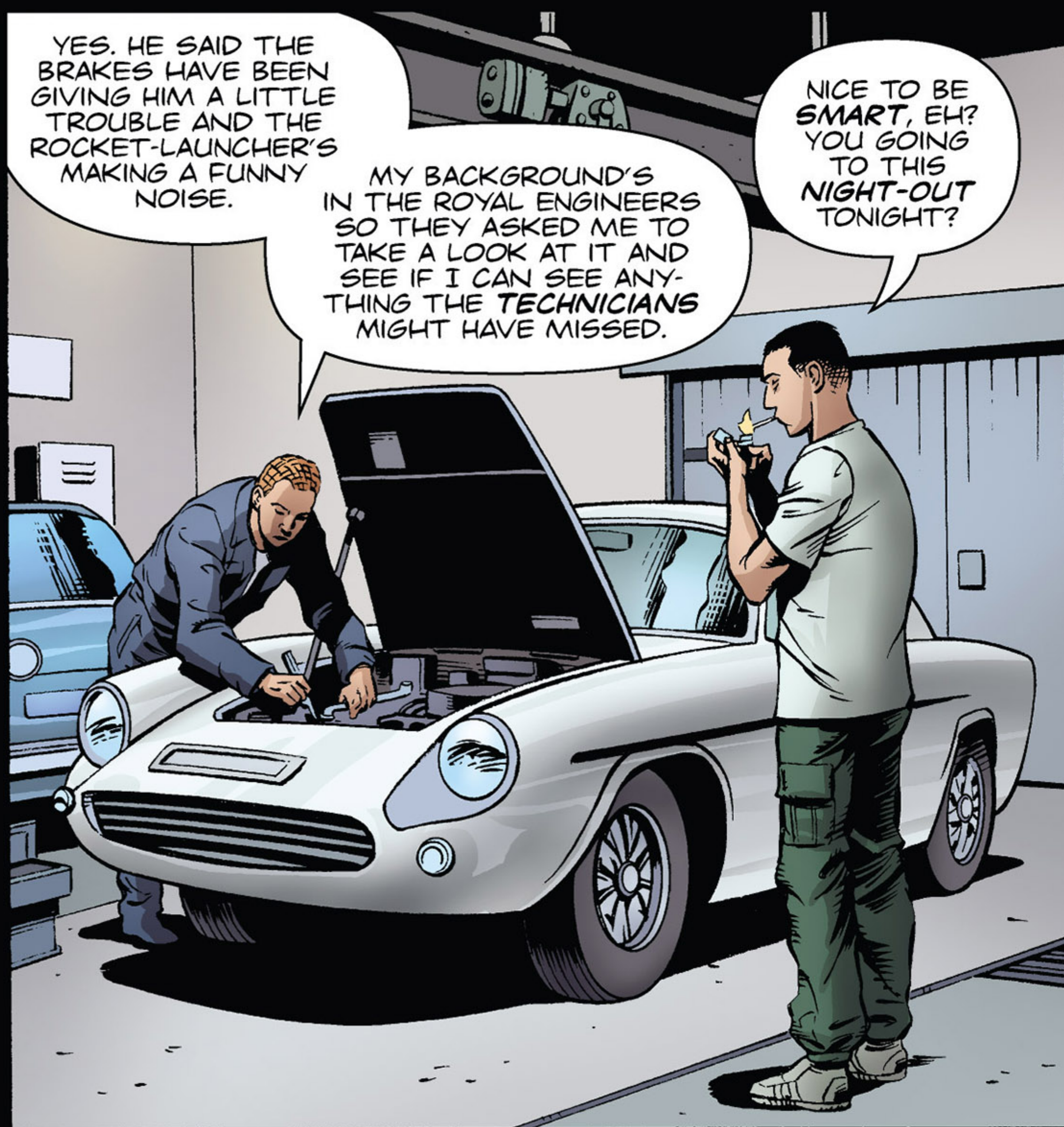
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING HANGING AROUND
ANYWAY? AREN'T YOU
SUPPOSED TO BE ON THE
FLIGHT SIMULATOR THIS
AFTERNOON?

I WAS,
BUT THEY
KICKED ME OFF
'COZ I FLEW
THE 747 INTO
ARSENAL'S
MAIN STAND,
DIDN'T I?



DID YOU
LOSE
CONTROL
OF THE
PLANE?

NAH, I JUST
HATE **ARSENAL**.
IS THAT MY
UNCLE'S
SPECIAL
CAR?



YES. HE SAID THE
BRAKES HAVE BEEN
GIVING HIM A LITTLE
TROUBLE AND THE
ROCKET-LAUNCHER'S
MAKING A FUNNY
NOISE.

MY BACKGROUND'S
IN THE ROYAL ENGINEERS
SO THEY ASKED ME TO
TAKE A LOOK AT IT AND
SEE IF I CAN SEE ANY-
THING THE **TECHNICIANS**
MIGHT HAVE MISSED.

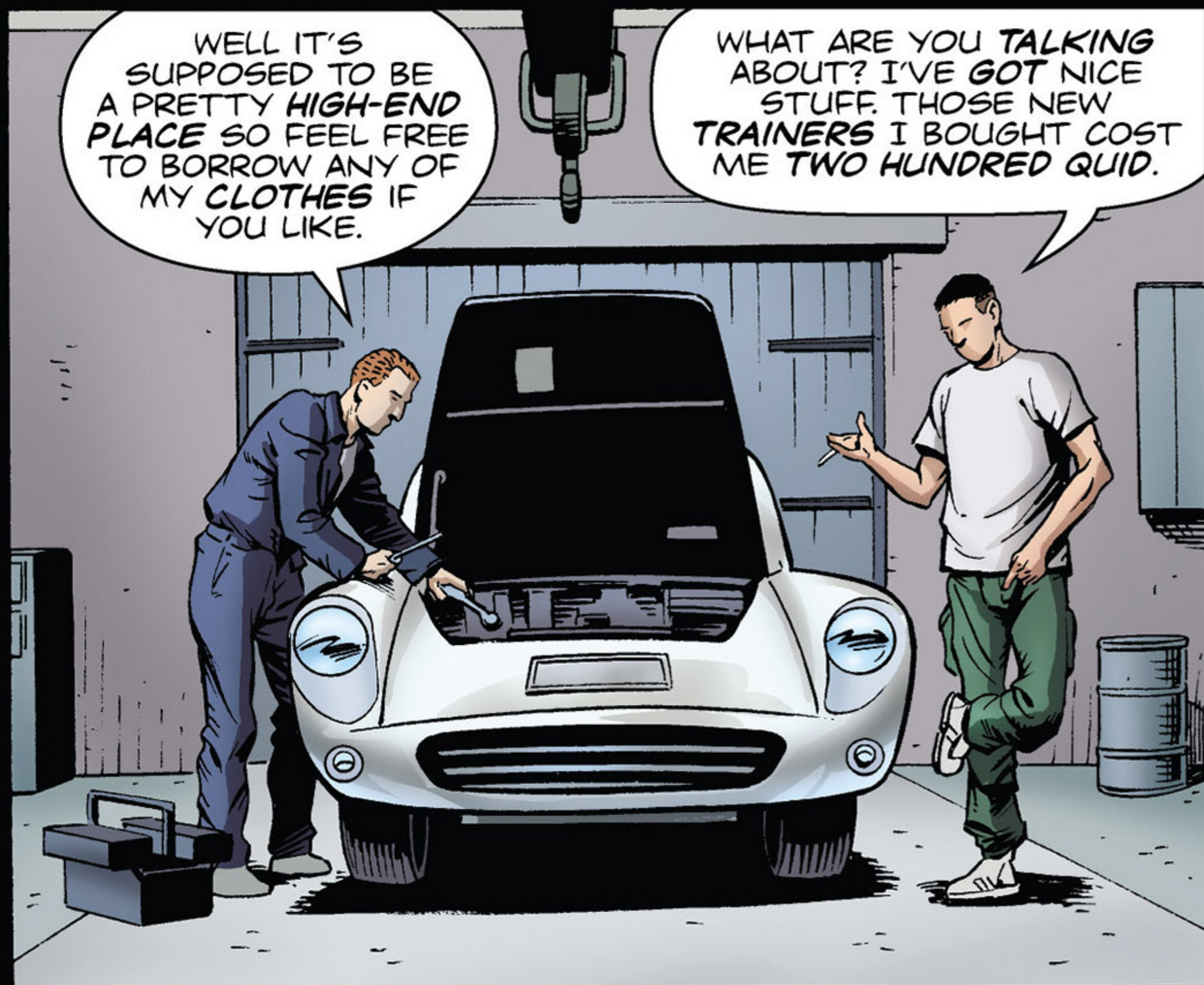
NICE TO BE
SMART, EH?
YOU GOING
TO THIS
NIGHT-OUT
TONIGHT?



IT'S NOT A NIGHT-OUT, GARY
IT'S A TEST TO SEE HOW
PERSUASIVE WE CAN BE IN AN
UNKNOWN URBAN ENVIRONMENT.
THE INSTRUCTORS ARE GOING
TO BE THERE MONITORING
EVERYTHING.



MATE, IT'S
FREE DRINKS
AND THEY GIVE
US POINTS FOR
SHAGGING BIRDS.
WHERE I COME
FROM THAT'S A
NIGHT OUT.



WELL IT'S
SUPPOSED TO BE
A PRETTY **HIGH-END**
PLACE SO FEEL FREE
TO BORROW ANY OF
MY CLOTHES IF
YOU LIKE.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING
ABOUT? I'VE GOT NICE
STUFF. THOSE NEW
TRAINERS I BOUGHT COST
ME TWO HUNDRED QUID.



SORRY.
I'M JUST
SAYING.
I DIDN'T
MEAN ANY
OFFENCE.



YEAH, WELL.
NONE TAKEN.



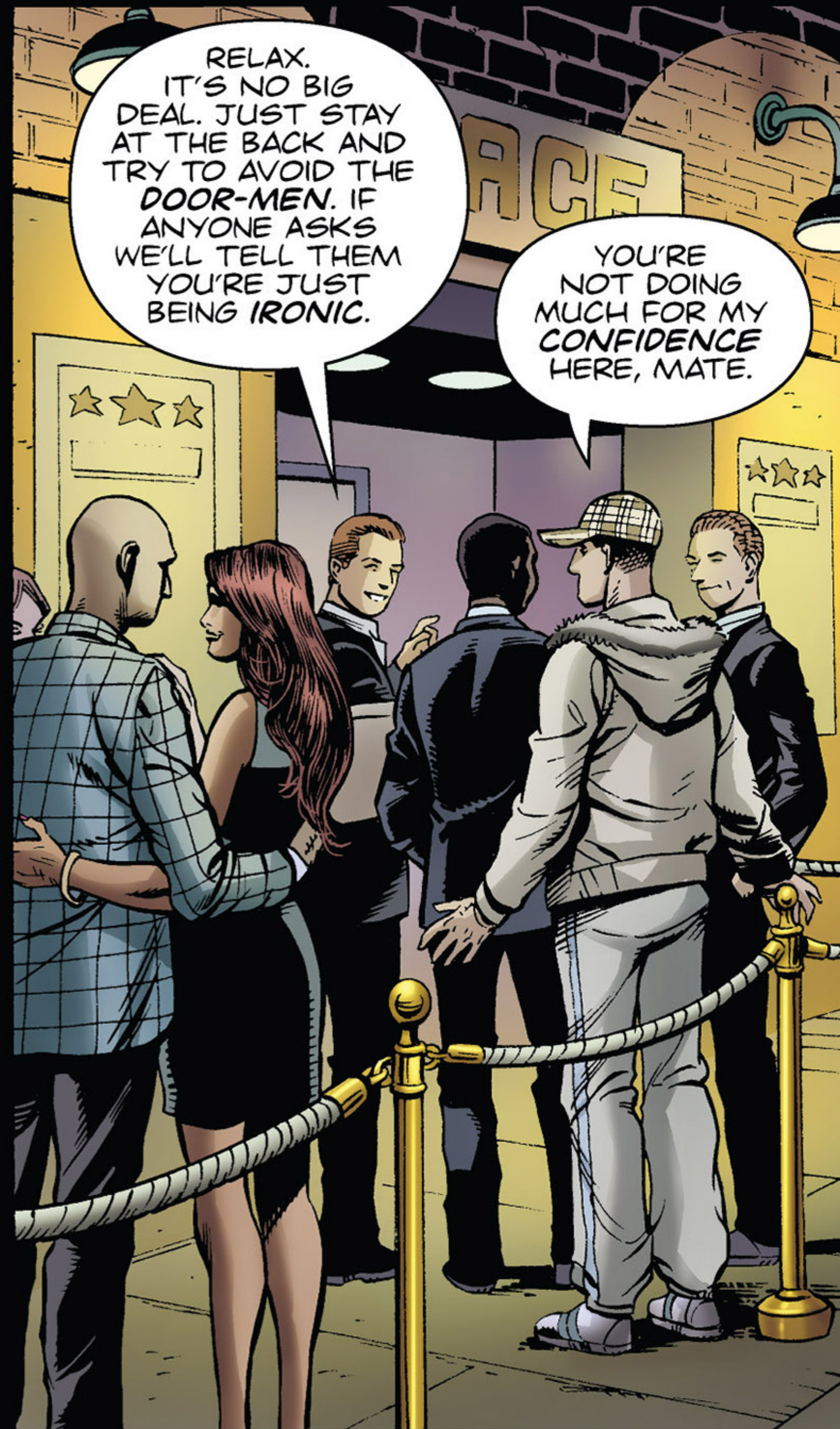
LATER THAT NIGHT:

GARY, PLEASE. TELL ME YOU'RE JOKING.



EH? THIS IS MY BEST GEAR, YOU BIG PRICK!

OH, COME ON. WE'VE BEEN SENT HERE TO SEDUCE THESE WOMEN NOT BEAT THEM UP AND STEAL THEIR HAND-BAGS. WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU THINKING?

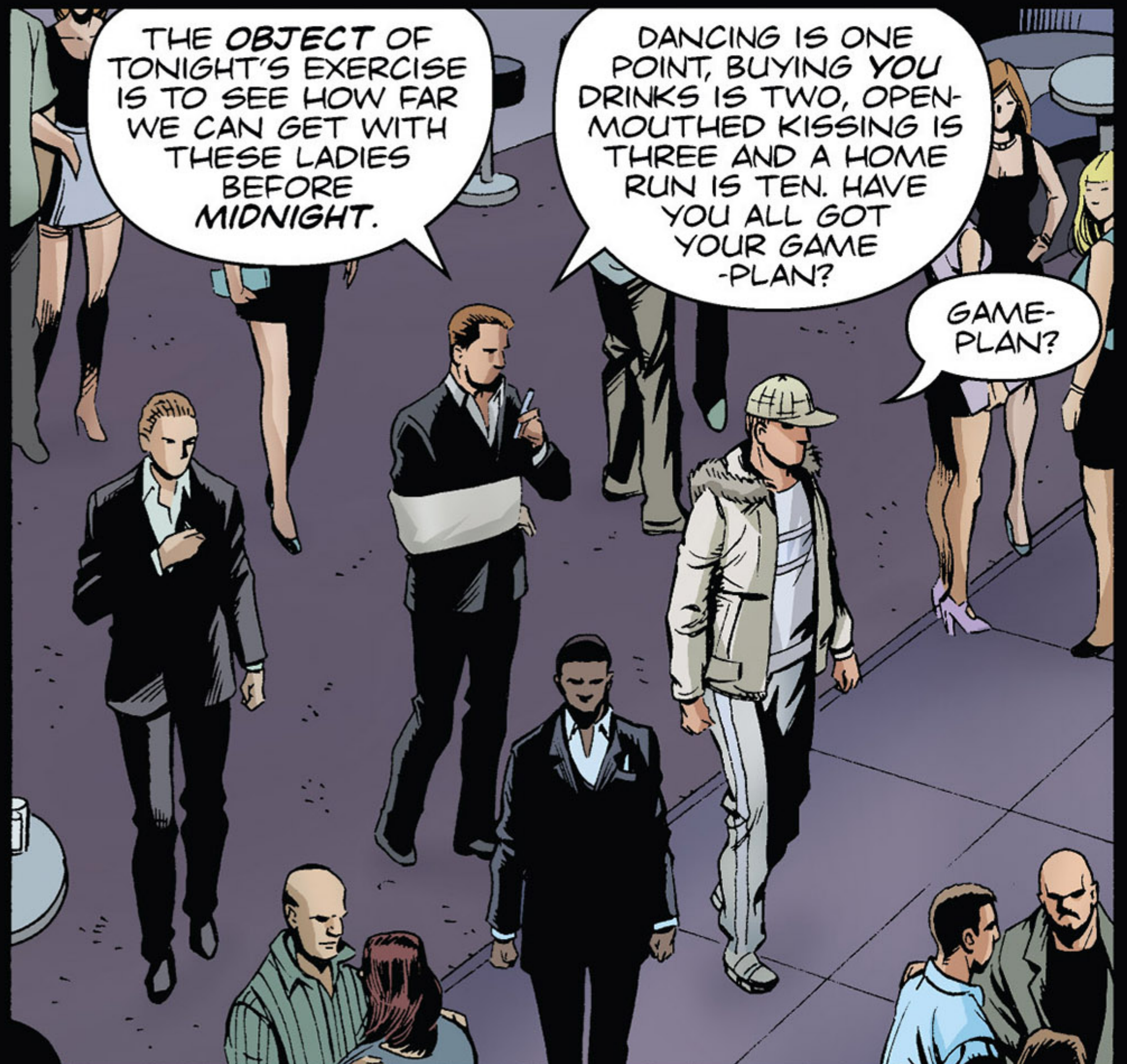


RELAX. IT'S NO BIG DEAL. JUST STAY AT THE BACK AND TRY TO AVOID THE DOOR-MEN. IF ANYONE ASKS WE'LL TELL THEM YOU'RE JUST BEING IRONIC.

YOU'RE NOT DOING MUCH FOR MY CONFIDENCE HERE, MATE.



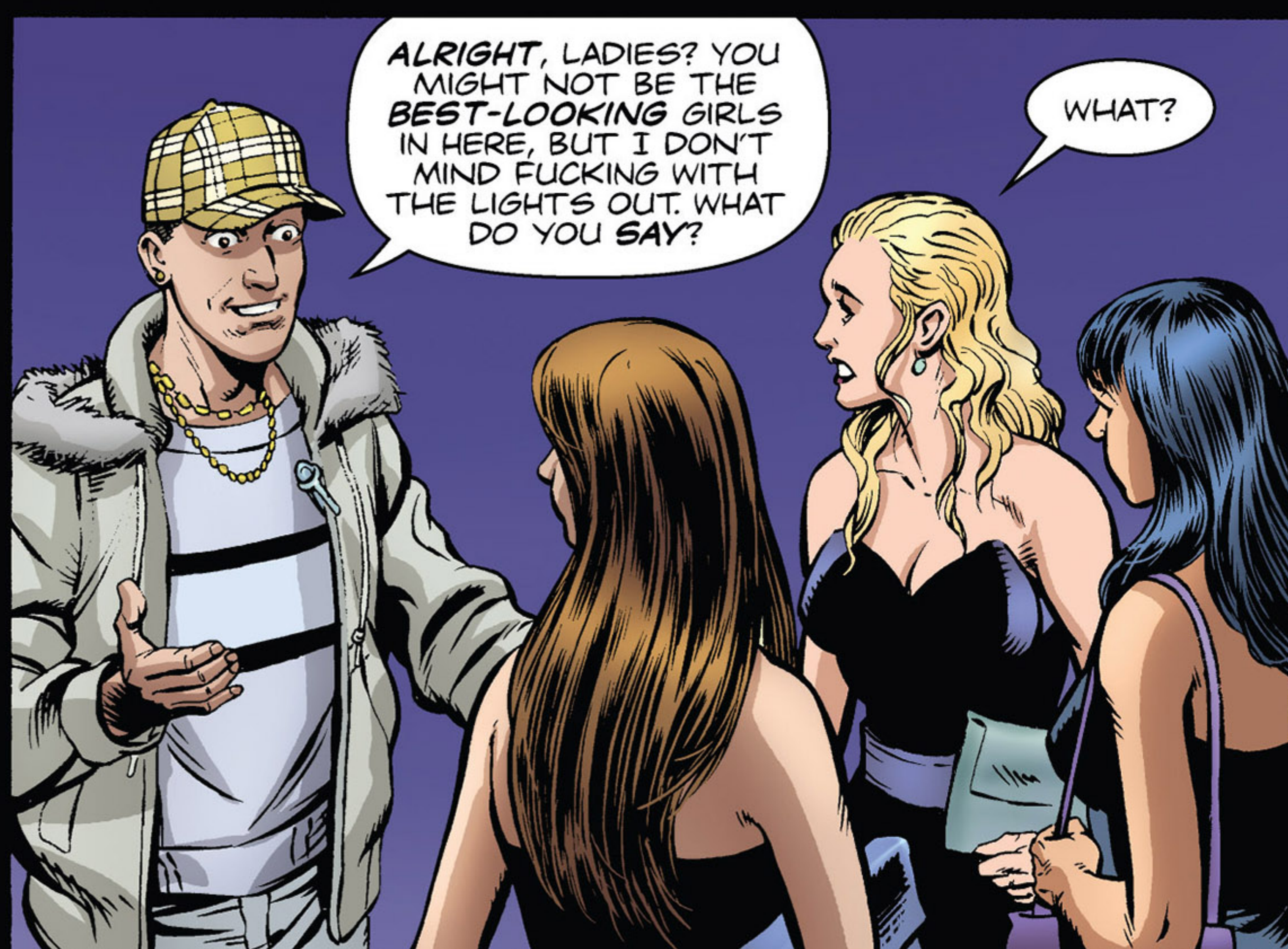
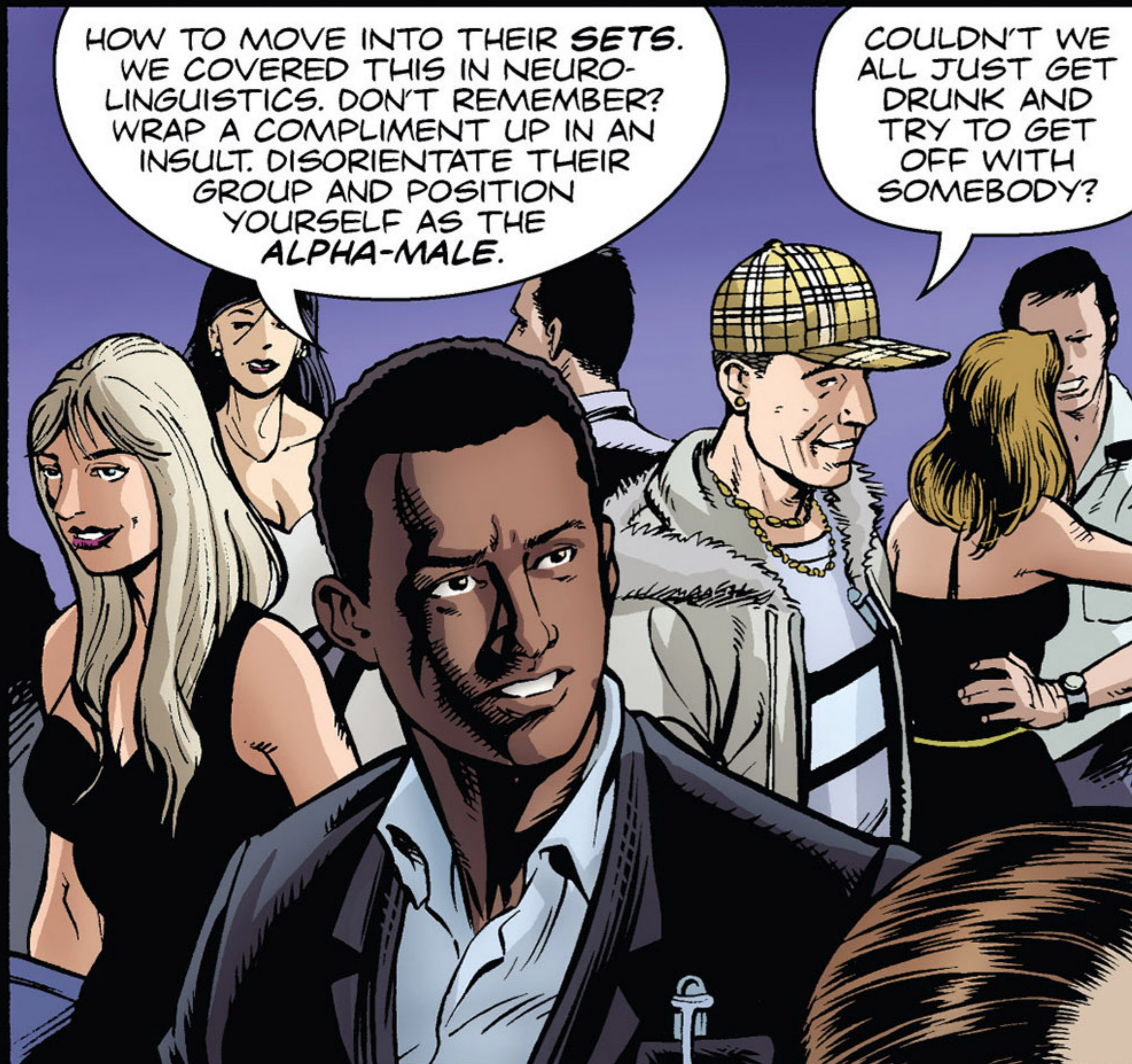
OKAY, EVERYBODY SWITCH ON THOSE RADIO-PENS I GAVE YOU AND KEEP THEM IN YOUR TOP POCKET. THIS MEANS WE CAN ALL STAY IN CLOSE CONTACT AND MONITOR HOW THE REST OF THE TEAM ARE DOING.

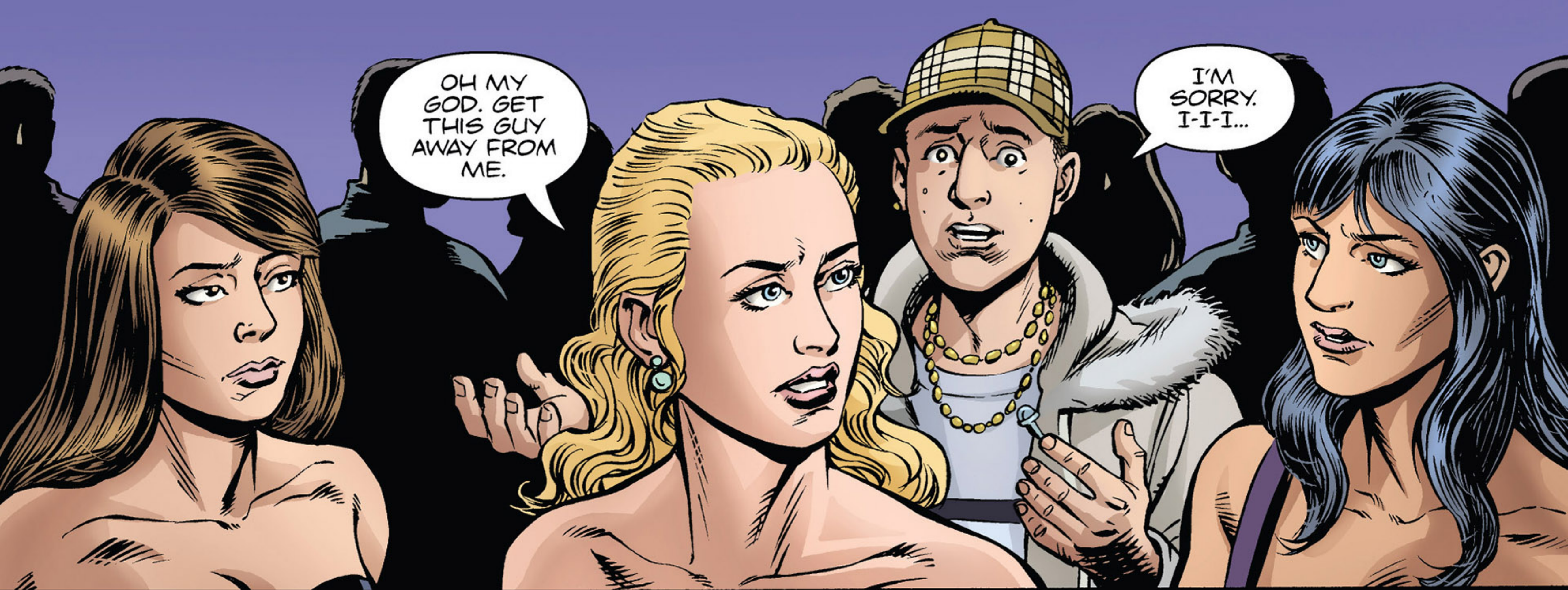


THE OBJECT OF TONIGHT'S EXERCISE IS TO SEE HOW FAR WE CAN GET WITH THESE LADIES BEFORE MIDNIGHT.

DANCING IS ONE POINT, BUYING YOU DRINKS IS TWO, OPEN-MOUTHED KISSING IS THREE AND A HOME RUN IS TEN. HAVE YOU ALL GOT YOUR GAME-PLAN?

GAME-PLAN?







POOR GARY. CAN YOU BELIEVE WHAT HE SHOWED UP WEARING? IF HE **PULLS** TONIGHT I'M DEFECTING TO THE RUSSIANS.

AH, GARY'S OKAY. I'M JUST WORRIED HE'S IN OVER HIS HEAD AND MAKES A FOOL OF HIMSELF WITH ALL THIS. I KNOW HIS UNCLE THINKS HE'S DOING HIM A FAVOUR GETTING HIM ON THIS COURSE, BUT HE JUST ISN'T A NATURAL FIT.



HE'S AMAZING AT ALL THE **CALL OF DUTY** STUFF AND I GENUINELY OWE HIM MY LIFE. BUT THERE'S A **SUBTLETY** TO ESPIONAGE WORK.

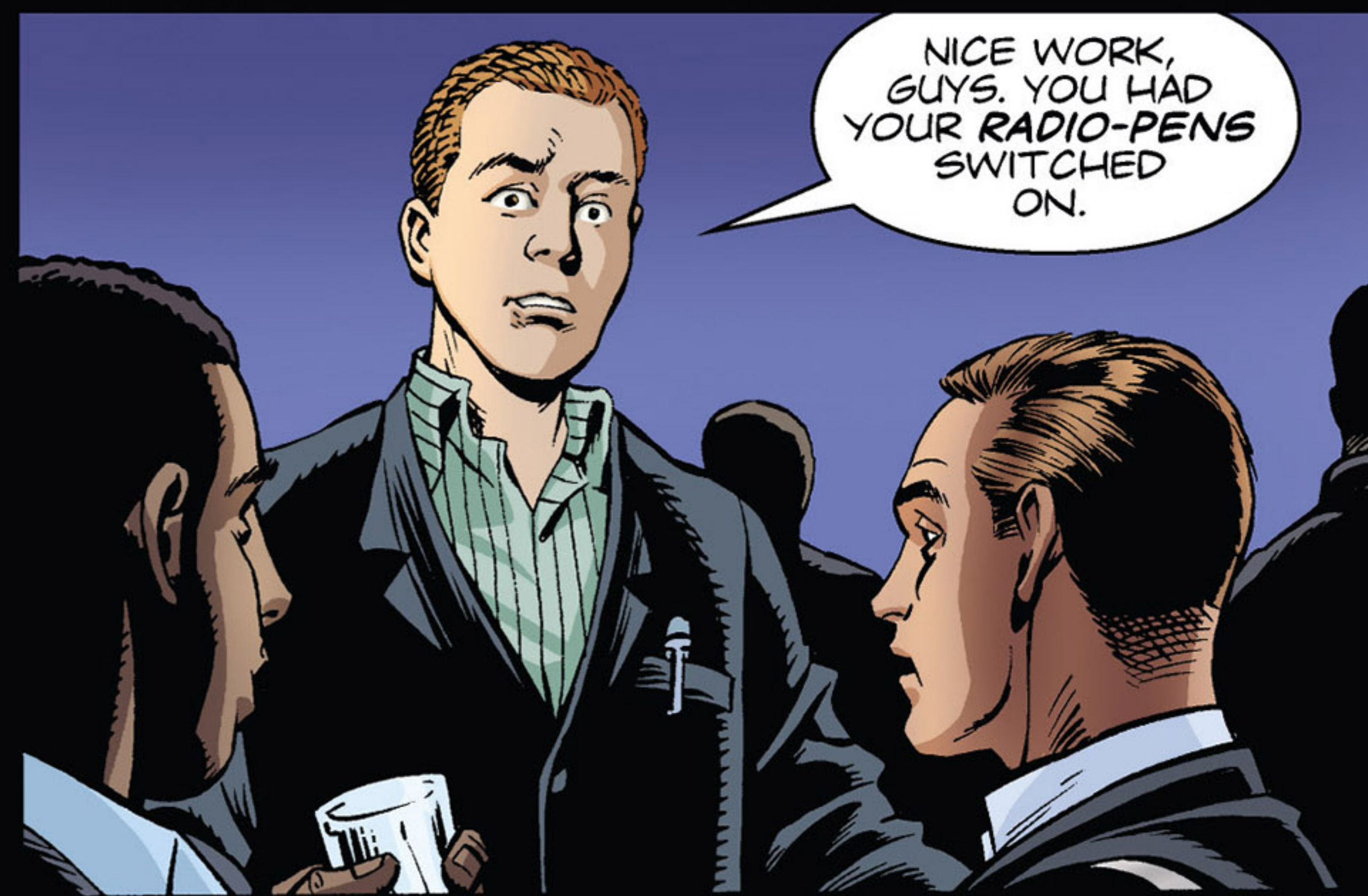
DID YOU HEAR HE GOT **BARACK OBAMA** AND **OSAMA BIN LADEN** MIXED-UP THIS AFTERNOON?

HA-HA. ARE YOU **SERIOUS?**



ABSOLUTELY. IT'S NOT HIS **FAULT**. HE JUST HASN'T HAD THE **OPPORTUNITIES** WE'VE HAD. BUT THERE'S A REASON IT'S HARD TO GET INTO THIS GAME AND I DON'T WANT TO SEE HIM GETTING INTO **TROUBLE**.

I'M WORRIED HE GETS HURT OR GETS **SOMEONE ELSE** HURT. HE SIMPLY DOESN'T **BELONG** IN THIS LINE OF WORK.



NICE WORK, GUYS. YOU HAD YOUR **RADIO-PENS** SWITCHED ON.



OH, CHRIST. DO YOU THINK HE HEARD US?

